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Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwait Source Urges Caution on Iraq Defection

MM2308104295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Kuwaiti Politician Urges International Community Not To Believe Husayn Kamil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait — A high-ranking political source in Kuwait yesterday dismissed the claimed motives behind Iraqi Industry and Minerals Minister Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, urging the international community not to believe him or risk appointing "a new Saddam" as leader of Iraq.

The source said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the international community should refrain from contributing to a solution to the Iraqi question "at the expense of the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic nations once again."

The source pointed out that the Iraqi people are facing daily threats as a result of the regime's tyranny.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has said that former Iraqi Minister Husayn Kamil "is a war criminal, and we should not forget that he was one of the Iraqi tyrant's prominent aides. And we should not rejoice at his defection but, rather, view the matter cautiously."

As is known, the Kuwaiti Research and Studies Center has prepared a document entitled "Iraqi War Criminals and Their Crimes During the Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait."

The document says that Husayn Kamil issued orders for war crimes to be committed during the occupation; and that he supervised the sabotage operations against the oil fields and power and water installations, in addition to stealing equipment in Kuwait. Husayn Kamil is fourth on the document's list of Iraqi war criminals.

Arab League Issues Statement on al-Aqsa Mosque

NC2108170195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement today marking the 26th anniversary of the crime of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the Arab League General Secretariat affirmed that the al- Aqsa Mosque is being again subjected to extreme dangers because of Israel's hostile measures against it and its repeated attempts to destroy it through terrorist and extremist powers. In addition, Israel continues to dig the area around it and has built a tunnel extending from the al-Buraq wall to the mosque's courtyard to try to change the geographic features of the mosque and Jerusalem in general.

The statement once again denounced the decision by the Higher Court in Israel on 3 August permitting the so-called guardians of the Temple Mount to enter the mosque courtyard, something that sets a dangerous precedent and is a flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions and the Declaration of Principles signed between the PLO and Israel on 13 September 1993. According to the declaration, Jerusalem is among the issues to be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations; and the West Bank and Gaza constitute a single unit, the territorial integrity of which must be safeguarded during the interim period.

The Arab League stressed that Israel's aggressive practices constitute a serious obstacle to peace and show Israel's real intentions of trying to create a fait accompli prior to the negotiations on the permanent status of the occupied Palestinian territories. The Arab League General Secretariat urged the world community and cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference, the United States and Russia, to compel Israel to abide by the agreements it concluded and to realize that peace and security cannot be attained under its occupation of the Arab territories.

Arab League Official Views Peace March

NC1908200995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)— Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, assistant Arab League secretary general in charge of the Palestinian department, said that Israel is attempting to slow the Palestinian transition from international to constitutional legitimacy under different pretexts, such as Israeli public opinion, winning new votes in favor of the Labor Party, and security reasons.

Kamal told AL-AHRAM in statements to be published tomorrow, Sunday [20 August], that signs of this were evident in recent Israeli measures including closing the Ibrahimi Sanctuary, extending Gaza's closure, storming Palestinian foundations in Jerusalem, and the subsequent measures of expropriating lands, expanding settlements, the recent moves by settlers, and the expected escalation of settlers' violence against Palestinians.

He emphasized that the immediate redeployment of the Israeli occupation troops is bound to settle all these problems, which increases Palestinian hopelessness of achieving the goal of setting up an independent state.

I sincerely call on the Palestinian Authority, after it returned to the Palestinian fold through the recent meetings of the Executive Committee in Tunis, to return to the Arab fold through the Arab League and discuss and assess the peace process from the Washington agreement until now, kamal said.

On whether this is an invitation to fall back on the peace march, the Arab League assistant secretary general said that it is not an invitation to go back as much as an invitation to review the whole situation so that Arab support can take various forms as the Palestinian people rise to achieve their independence and right to self determination.

He added that the Arab-Israeli conflict still forms an independent item on the agenda of the next session of the Arab League Council to be held on 20 September. The matter ultimately depends on what the Palestinian Authority wants to discuss, he said.

He pointed out that although the Arab position is improving in terms of charting joint Arab action on the basis of frankness and clarity, the Palestinian issue and the political and economic struggle of the Palestinian people still constitute an essential component of this joint action.

Arab Labor Conference Views Sudanese Situation

EA1708135395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab labor conference, at the end of its 22nd session in Alexandria, issued its resolutions and recommendations which included emphasis on the importance of achieving national unity, peace, and development in Sudan on the basis of the Arab League's resolution, issued in its 101st session.

The resolutions affirmed the need for concerted efforts to confront any threats that target Sudan and impair the unity of its people and the independence of its political decisions. The conference condemned attempts at foreign interference in the internal affairs of Sudan.

It denounced the colonialist forces' military, material, and moral support for the rebellion. It emphasized that this support comes within the framework of the conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation which aim to undermine its unity, ignite discord, and fan the flames of wars so that it does not enjoy stability.

The Arab labor conference expressed its appreciation to the Sudanese Government for its pursuit of dialogue [word indistinct] to solve the southern problem and its repeated calls for finding a comprehensive, permanent, and just solution to the issue through dialogue. It lauded the revolution's programs to establish peace from within, settle the returnees, establish peace villages for them, and rehabilitate migrant and displaced people and working rural women.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Aug

NC2008204595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is the 263rd in a series of editorial reports on political Islam in Egypt. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items on political Islam that have been published in all the issues of the Cairo Arabic newspapers 'AQIDATI, AL-NUR, and AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH since late December 1993 and most issues of the twice-weekly AL-SHA'B. Unless otherwise indicated, no further processing of the items summarized below has been done or is planned.

This editorial report reviews the August 15th issue of AL-SHA'B.

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2. Minister's Brother In Drug Case Said Allowed To Flee.
3. Sudanese Official Denies Islamists Removed.
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8. Mashhur Views Lessons From Prophet's Birthday.
9. Detainees' Rights Explained.
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11 Mubarak's Geneva Visit, Arrest of Scholar Questioned.

OFFICERS ACCUSED OF TORTURING BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

An approximately 350-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 8 notes that the defense team for the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members held in custody in connection with the Alexandria Scout Camp case has submitted 30 complaints to the Public Prosecutor against 14 police officers for torturing the detained members at various police stations in al-Minufiyah Governorate. The lawyers cited the use of "barbaric torture methods" against detainees, including hanging them by their hands and legs, giving them electric shocks, and beating them with an electric baton for three days. The lawyers demanded an immediate investigation into the issue and appropriate measures against the officers, whose names are listed. In another part of the report, the writer notes that the Higher State Security Prosecutor has released 15 Brotherhhood members from an Alexandria jail on 13 August. The prosecutor renewed the remand of 55 others for 15 more days pending interrogation. Their lawyers told the prosecutors that the Scout Camp is under the supervision of state authorities and denied any violations by their clients.

In a related issue, an unattributed report on page 1 says that detainees Muhammad Sa'd 'Ali Ahmad, who is sentenced to death in connection with the murder of a policeman in Isna, died of tuberculosis in a high security prison on 3 August. Noting that tuberculosis is widespread among the detainees, the report adds that the Interior Ministry had imposed a blackout on the death of the detainee, whose body stayed for 10 Days at Zaynahum morgue until his family learned about the matter from a fellow prisoner.

MINISTER'S BROTHER IN DRUG CASE SAID ALLOWED TO FLEE

An approximately 600-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says that "instructions have been given by a higher state authority to permit the travel of the younger brother of International Cooperation Minister Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali. The minister's brother was arrested and accused of trading in narcotics smuggled from abroad, a charge punishable by death." The accused is said to have been permitted to leave the country "3 weeks ago." The paper notes that the accused is the son of an extremely wealthy businessman and it is therefore unlikely to have taken such a risk to "make money." Instead, the paper suggests that his activity could be related to "Zionist quarters, which have persistently sought to push these new kinds of drugs into Egypt to destroy its youth." The paper demands an investigation into this "serious" issue and the "immediate" resignation of Minister Ghali.

SUDANESE OFFICIAL DENIES ISLAMISTS REMOVED

An approximately 300-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah cites a Sudanese official as denying reports on the removal of Islamists from power in the recent cabinet reshuffle.(nc2008132295)

CHIEF EDITOR VIEWS CLINTON'S WHITEWATER AFFAIR

In an approximately 3,000-word article entitled "The Trial of the President and the First Lady" on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn, writing from the United States, comments on a Congressional hearing he attended in Washington to examine accusations of abuse of authority by President Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas, an issue that is known as the "Whitewater" case. Husayn notes that any citizen, visitor, or journalist may attend these hearings and that people can go into the Congress building without having to obtain a permit. In his article, Husayn gives details of the case, which he describes as "extremely complicated." He explains that he has not seen any writer in major U.S. newspapers defending President Clinton as the "symbol of the state," and that "certainly nobody has said that Clinton is the United States." Concluding, Husayn adds: "This case raises a matter we have long talked about in our campaign against corruption; namely, that corruption at higher levels cannot be investigated except through witnesses. Documents alone are not enough, for they normally deal with small matters. Major corruption cases cannot be investigated without witnesses." He notes that some current and former White House officials are testifying against the president, knowing that he has got "only one more year or at most four more years in office." He adds: "Regardless of our opinion about the U.S. extravagants in investigations, which go on for years in such cases; and the media's total immersion into the minute details, which lessens the room given to analysis, one substantial thing remains; that is, balance among the authorities curtails corruption and places a dividing line between the country's higher interests and officials and between institutions and those in charge of them. This is the core of stability for any rational political system."

LABOR PARTY, MB OFFICIALS CELEBRATE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY

'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, in an approximately 3,000-word report on page 3, writes on a rally held by the Labor Party on 13 August to celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The rally was attended by Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri, MB Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur, Islamic Scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Lawyers Syndicate Secretary General Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the Bosnian ambassador in Cairo, and representatives of other political parties and public figures. The report notes that the Bosnian issue featured prominently in the rally. In his speech, Shukri deplored the West's indifference to the plight of Muslims in Bosnia and its total disregard for the Islamic nation, as if did not exist. Calling for a boycott of nations that support the Serbs, Shukri explained that a boycott is an effective weapon against all countries that publicly support the "criminals." Turning to domestic issues, Shukri denounced the government's campaign against freedom and its arrest of MB members, adding that without freedom Egypt will never restore its status and leadership role. He adds: "They are antagonizing whoever raises the Islamic motto and then accuse the Islamists of rejecting democracy. We tell them no, we are for the democracy that Islam calls for. We want Egypt to return to what it was; a free and strong country where people can feel secure." Shukri noted that things will not be straightened out in Egypt without free and fair elections that could bring in an elected government that enjoys the people's backing. He called on the government to provide the guarantees demanded by the opposition parties to ensure that the upcoming elections are fair.

MB Deputy Guide Mashhur cautioned against the frustration and despair felt by some as a result of the defeats suffered by and aggressions made against Muslims. He added: "The major powers will collapse. The same as the Soviet Union has collapsed, the United States will collapse too." He went on to add: "They are trying to finish off Islam with their weapons and domination, but they will not be able to." Turning to the harassment of Islamists, Mashhur said: "In Islamic countries, governments fight the Islamic movement and preachers through the use of torture and detention without fearing God, who will bring them to account on Judgment Day." Responding to the government's recent campaign against the MB, Mashhur said: "We have not taken part in any of the incidents that have taken place. We did participate in the war against the Zionists. But, we do not want to reach power by force, for this is not the path charted for us by Martyr Imam Hasan al-Banna."

WRITER SUSPECTS U.S. HAND IN IRAQI DEFECTORS' EPISODE

Labor Party official Major General Tal'at Musallam, in an approximately 700-word article on page 2, comments on the recent defection to Jordan of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's sons-in law along with their wives. While expressing his objection to the Iraqi leader's practices, Musallam notes that the defectors themselves took part in these same practices which they are denouncing. He notes that the striking thing in the defectors' episode is that they requested shelter in Jordan. He adds: "The defectors' escape to Jordan and the Jordanian king's contact with the U.S. President immediately after their arrival gives a clue about who is behind this incident." Following that contact, he states, the U.S. President voiced support for Jordan against Iraq's threat, although the latter had not made any threat. He concludes by saying that the oppositionists' use of the help of "foreign powers" to overthrow regimes will weaken us as a nation. He adds: "As for those who seek the help of foreign powers and those who promoted and continue to promote such attitudes, their ultimate fate is the dustbin of history, regardless of the positions and money they gain."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS DEPLORED

Representatives of 8 human rights groups and centers met on 1 August to denounce what they see as the government's "onslaught" against them, writes Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid in an approximately 1,200- word report on page 4. The report notes that the government's "harassment" of these groups followed the release of the U.S. State Department's report on "deteriorating human rights in Egypt." The government, he says, accused these groups of being the main supplier of the information contained in the U.S. report and began a ferocious campaign of questioning the legal status of these groups. Nijad al-Bura'i, secretary general of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, notes that in addition to questioning the legal status of his group, the government has disallowed a training seminar for his group scheduled to be held with some U.S. lawyers. The interior minister, he added, went as far as accusing the participants in the seminar of espionage. Al-Bura'i added: "The general atmosphere in Egypt is uncomfortable. The government has moved against professional syndicates, the press, and finally the human rights organizations; this behavior does not bode well." Hisham Mubarak, executive director of the Human Rights Legal Aid Center, notes that the government's harassment started with the issuance of a ruling by the Justice Ministry that human rights groups are not "legally notarized" and as such, those working for them could be punished by law. This was followed by concerted media campaigns questioning the sources of financing for these groups, he adds.

MASHHUR VIEWS LESSONS FROM PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY

MB Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur writes an approximately 2,000-word article called "The Prophet Is Our Model" on page 5. In his article, which marks the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, Mashhur traces the history of the Prophet Muhammad from his early upbringing up to the time he assumed command of propagating the Islamic religion. He notes that during this "critical period which the Islamic nation is going through, Muslims need to follow the footsteps of the prophet, may God be upon him, in their personal and public life, for commitment to this example is the best solution and savior from the sufferings and grief which Muslims are experiencing today." He cites examples from the prophet's life which show how he tolerated torture and humiliation at the hands of the infidels. He points out that the "weakness and humiliation" suffered by Muslims today is the result of their disregard for the teachings of their religion. This, he notes, has given their enemies the opportunity to control them, corrupt them, and turn them away from their religion. These enemies, he states, think that they can finish off Islam, but this is a mere illusion. Islam, he adds, is born to stay and the plight of Muslims today is the beginning of the road to victory, for this plight is only a test from God. Stressing the need for justice and equality in the Islamic nation, Mashhur adds that President Mubarak's remarks at the celebration marking the prophet's birthday that Islam is marked by justice and equality has revived hope for us that "these words will be followed by actual deeds", so that stability and security may prevail, terrorism may disappear, and peace, cooperation, and reform may spread. Turning to campaigns of torture and harassment by some regimes against Islamists, Mashhur says that these rulers "accuse us of wanting to take power from them by force." He adds: "But we do not want power for ourselves; we will support and help whoever rules fully by God's shari'ah. If this does not happen, we will continue to preach with reason and good counsel until God upholds the right and eliminates the wrong."

DETAINEES' RIGHTS EXPLAINED

Citizens' Constitutional rights in case of detention are explained in an approximately 600-word report on page 6. The report is compiled by the Human Rights Legal Aid Center. It includes the citizens' rights to seek legal aid, receive a humane treatment, have access to information and studies, and to make complaints.

TUNISIAN ISLAMIST CONDEMNS CRACKDOWN ON BROTHERHOOD

Rached Ghannouchi, leader of Tunisia's Ennahda Movement, writes an approximately 800-word article entitled: "What Is Left of Democracy in Egypt After Striking At the MB?" He notes that since its establishment, the MB has represented a school of thought that believes in the "gradual Islamic change" that begins with society before state. Under this doctrine, the group prepares individuals to be spiritually and intellectually balanced and at ease with their environment. This method, he adds, has given the MB "noticeable maturity" in the past two decades and enabled it to adopt "daring" positions on some of the most complicated contemporary political issues, such as acceptance of political pluralism, public and individual freedoms, peaceful alteration in power, and respect for human rights. Ghannouchi points out that despite the increasing pressure against them by fellow Islamists on one hand and the state on the other to give up their peaceful methods, the Muslim Brothers continued to strongly denounce violence. He notes that instead of encouraging them, the Egyptian government has clamped down on them, denied them the right to run for elections, arrested hundreds of them, and took over "394 medical clinics affiliated with them that used to provide generous health care to the needy." Expressing his movement's extreme concern at this onslaught against democracy, Ghannouchi notes that this "harassment" against the MB is a serious measure led and "driven by a Zionized elite" that seeks to strike at the pillars of stability in Egypt, obstruct democracy, and drive the moderate Islamic forces into despair. He calls on Egyptian patriotic forces to close their ranks in the face of the Zionist danger and to persuade the Egyptian government not to enter a confrontation against the "symbol of moderation in the contemporary Islamic movement."

MUBARAK'S GENEVA VISIT, ARREST OF SCHOLAR QUESTIONED

Islamic writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus writes an approximately 700-word article entitled "The Geneva Visit And The Detained Scholar" on page 12. 'Abd-al-Quddus says he was surprised by President Mubarak's recent visit to Geneva to meet United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid only a few days after Syaykh Zayid paid an official visit to Egypt. He notes that according to the official announcement on the visit, the two leaders discussed ways to consolidate Arab solidarity and bilateral issues, things which the two must have discussed in their talks in Alexandria three days earlier. He adds: "If I were an official spokesman for the president, I would have made a statement saying that President Mubarak and his wife travelled to Switzerland on a short private visit as guests of Shaykh Zayid and his wife Shaykhah Fatimah or I would have kept silent, for silence in such cases is like gold, out of respect for the people." He adds: "My personal belief is that it is the right of the president and his family to spend a vacation abroad, like all well-to-do people in Egypt do, provided that it is not at the state's expense." He notes that this is the second time the president has met with Shaykh Zayid in Geneva a few days after the shaykh's visit to Egypt without giving "convincing reasons to the public" for such a visit.

Turning to another matter, 'Abd-al-Quddus denounces the silence over the continued detention of Shaykh Sayyid 'Askar, director of guidance and religious information in al-Azhar, as part of the regime's "campaign" to arrest candidates from the Islamic current who are likely to run for the parliamentary elections in November. He notes that Shaykh 'Askar is one of the most prominent candidates in Tanta.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reiterates Commitment to Peace Process

JN2208170295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1124 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that we are fully committed to the peace process, and that the operations that are taking place will not stop this process.

In a news conference he held with Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister of economy and international cooperation at the end of their meeting at the Presidency in Gaza at noon today, President 'Arafat said the objective of the operations carried out by both the Palestinian and Israeli sides is to strike at the peace process.

The president said the National Authority [NA] is starting from scratch because the Palestinian infrastructure has been completely destroyed. He stressed that we need help in constructing schools that will operate in three shifts due to the shortage of schools, and we are in need of constructing hospitals and roads. He also said we need electricity, water desalination equipment, sewage networks, housing projects, as well as constructing other establishments in addition to a port and an airport.

President 'Arafat thanked Germany—people, government, and president—for their support for the NA, and described his talks with the minister as positive and constructive.

President 'Arafat reiterated his condemnation of the explosion that took place in Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem, which killed five Israelis and injured more than 100 others. He said Iran has declared that it supports the opposition.

The president said any force that wants to take part in the legislative elections should believe in peace and commit itself to what has been agreed on with the other side. He stressed that the Palestinian state is a democratic one, and that elections are part of the agreements.

On his part, Spranger stressed that his country will continue to support construction and development projects in the NA areas, and expressed hope that the peace process will continue. He added that there is close cooperation between the Palestinian and German sides, and said talks will be held between (Zleeman Cobler,) German representative to the NA and Palestinian officials in order to decide on the German support for 1995. The German minister hailed the progress and construction activities he witnessed in the Gaza Strip.

He said Germany has extended 700 million Deutch Marks to the Palestinian people since early 1970's.

President 'Arafat inaugurated the Palestinian passports center in Gaza, and briefed the German delegation on the work at this center.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Finance Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi.

Ashrawi: Most Condemn Terror; Bombers Small Minority

BR2208100195 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 22 Aug 95 p 3

[Interview with Palestinian 'human rights activist' Hanan Ashrawi by Lorenzo Cremonesi in Jerusalem on 21 August: "'Horrible Crime, but I Understand the Palestinians' Anger'" — first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — "A criminal and immoral action designed to damage Israelis and Palestinians alike and bound to make any progress in the peace process even more difficult." Hanan Ashrawi has no doubts. She condemned the Jerusalem attack outright "as a Palestinian and as a woman." She was keen to stress this second aspect, since throughout the morning the Israeli media reported that the body of the suicide bomber found in the wreckage of the bus could be that of a woman.

The former spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference in the fall of 1991, currently an activist in the defense of human rights in Gaza and the occupied territories, agreed to grant us an interview in her Ramallah home, not far from Jerusalem. "The peace process is moving forward too slowly. In this phase, when things are still so delicate, an action like this can jeopardize everything."

[Cremonesi] You are a teacher at the university of the occupied territories. What would you do if you discovered that a student of yours is about to carry out a suicide attack?

[Ashrawi] I would do my utmost to dissuade him. I would tell him that to kill innocent people is simply barbaric and only serves to worsen things for both our peoples.

[Cremonesi] And if that did not work, would you report him?

[Ashrawi] That is a difficult question. I am convinced that anyone letting me in on such a secret would also ask me not to betray him, as though I were a priest. And no priest has the right to reveal secrets imparted in the confessional.

[Cremonesi] Was 'Arafat right to condemn the attack?

[Ashrawi] Of course he was right, very right indeed. But I must also say that for the people living on the Left Bank, which is still occupied by the Israelis, the situation has done nothing but get worse over the past few months. People fill their mouths with talk of the peace process, but very few of us have seen any concrete benefits. The occasional musical festival in the center of Gaza is not enough to make people forget the poverty of the refugee camps. Then there is the constant threat posed by the Jewish settlers, who never miss an opportunity to attack our people and proclaim the legitimacy of their presence on our land. A young Arab in Ramallah was murdered in cold blood only last week as he attempted to defend his occupied fields from Israeli nationalist extremists.

[Cremonesi] Is terrorism an answer to the settlers?

[Ashrawi] I am simply trying to say that until the Palestinians feel in real terms the material improvements deriving from the peace process, very little will change. The talks are dragging on too long. They should be discussing the final phase of autonomy by now, whereas it is still not even clear when we will be holding an election.

[Cremonesi] Prime Minister Rabin has once again decreed the closure of the Left Bank.

[Ashrawi] I think that is an absolutely counterproductive measure, destined only to fuel the vicious circle of violence and reprisal. It is not fair to impose collective punishment because of the irrational acts of a few isolated individuals. There can be no doubt that the majority of Palestinians condemn terrorism. The suicide bombers are a small minority.

[Cremonesi] It is a commonly held view that Islam does not allow the use of women in war operations, let alone in suicide attacks. If it turns out to be true that the attacker was a woman, why, in your view, would the fundamentalists have gone against this precept?

[Ashrawi] It is not correct to state that women have never carried out suicide actions in the world of Islam. They too were called on to take part in the Jihad — the holy war — in the past, often in the front line. More recently, women suicide bombers have carried out actions in Lebanon. In my view this is even more serious. We women really should avoid committing the errors and violence perpetrated by men throughout history.

Commentary Blames Israeli Right Wing for Bus Bombing

JN2208115595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since creation, peace has been the most sublime human and cultural value in this universe, and it will continue to be so forever. If life on earth is 6,000 years old, as geography and history experts say, then only 300 of these years have witnessed no wars. The 20th century, for example, began with the Russo-Japanese War. As soon as this war was over, World War I broke out. It was followed by World War II, the U.S.-Korean war, the Indochina war, the Arab-Israeli wars, the Lebanese civil war, the Palestinian-Israeli war, the Pakistani-Indian war, the Chinese-Vietnamese war, and the current Balkans war. In between these wars, there were wars on a smaller scale. What was the result? Destruction, killing, captivity, and death. Once the warring groups used the language of logic and civilization, they embarked on peace. A new life of democracy and prosperity then prevailed in the countries which were gorged with bloodshed.

The Palestinians and the Israelis have opted for peace. The Palestinian decision was, and will always be, one seeking the peace of the brave, as always described by our President Yasir 'Arafat. The peace of the brave is a strategic Palestinian decision that seeks peace for all the Palestinian generations in this homeland—a homeland that is full of hope and is open to others.

Since the inception of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]—the authority of the Palestinian people on this land—and since negotiations with the Israelis, our neighbors on this land, we drew attention to the fact that peace should not become hostage to an incident here or there—one that is similar to the criminal and terrorist incident near French Hill in Jerusalem yesterday. This incident was condemned by the PNA and large sectors of our Palestinian people wherever they exist.

What is new is that the Israelis—government and people—are convinced that Israeli fingers are behind the French Hill crime. Yitzhaq Rabin pointed to this when he said: One of the objectives of this operation is to prevent the Labor Party from winning the next elections. We Palestinians do not want to interfere in the Israeli elections. However, this fact, which Rabin was late in revealing, points to [tushir busalatuha ila] the Israeli right wing—the pro-settlement right wing—as the executors of the French Hill operation north of Jerusalem. The incident, however, was depicted differently as part of the scenario required for such an action. The incident sought to sabotage the peace process and rekindle wars, and killings and bloodshed occurred.

The Palestinians and the Israelis have made the difficult decision of pursuing peace. However, a more difficult decision that the Israelis have to make to salvage the peace process, is quite clear; namely, to harness settlers and fanatics and halt the burning of the peace process by the excessive settlement activities in the Palestinian territories. The Palestinians have made a similar decision to harness the ones seeking to sabotage the peace process within PNA areas.

Terrorism is not confined to Arabs. All settlement activities on the Palestinian territories are acts of terrorism. Delaying the Israeli military withdrawal from the Palestinian territories gives a green light to the escalation of terrorism. The daily aggressions against al-Aqsa Mosque and Orient House in Jerusalem are an obvious act of terrorism.

Jerusalem is the main official and popular Palestinian concern. It will also remain the main concern of all Arabs, Muslims, and Christians. This is an established fact, just like the fact that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. We, Palestinians, will continue along the road to freedom and independence through negotiations with the Israelis—negotiations which are the longest in our history. What is common between the Palestinians and the Israelis is their resistance of terrorism so that peace may prevail—peace that would guarantee the establishment of a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital—a state free of wars and terrorism. This peace would guarantee for Israel a life free of wars or terrorism. The will of peace will ultimately triumph.

PA Official Sees Israeli Link in Jerusalem Bombing

JN2208162795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency in the Palestinian Authority, PA, by Ibrahim Milhim; from the "Today's Events" feature; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Milhim] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al- Rahim, the operation that took place in Jerusalem yesterday raises many questions with regard to its perpetrators and their goals, and the future of the peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said that the goal of this operation is to prevent the Labor Party from winning the forthcoming elections. Which side do you think does not want the Labor Party to win the upcoming Israeli elections?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Of course, the Labor Party and the PLO are two parties that are seeking to make peace on the Palestinian track according to the Declaration of Principles agreement. I believe that there are two parties — both on the Palestinian and Israeli sides — that will benefit from toppling the Labor Party and weakening the PLO. It might appear to some people that there is no coordination or convergence of interests between these two parties. In fact, there is coordination and convergence of interests between them. We have much evidence proving the existence of coordination between the two parties. There are many questions regarding some of the operations that were carried out, including the Bet Lid and Ramat Gan operations and the latest Jerusalem operation yesterday.

Toppling the Labor Party is the goal of extremist forces in Israel. Settlers are seeking to prevent the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] from spreading to the West Bank. There are Palestinian forces that seek to weaken the PLO — through carrying out operations whether in or from the PNA areas or even in the West Bank so that security pretexts would be raised again. These Palestinian forces hope the Likud will come to power once again. It is not peculiar that these forces were created during the Likud rule or occupation of Palestinian lands, whether in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. There is coordination and integration between them. During the last elections, some of them called for voting for the Shas party, not the Likud, and other hardline parties. Some in the 1948-occupied areas voted for Shas, let us say it frankly. So, there is a convergence of interests, if not coordination given the evidence that proves this, between the Israeli and Palestinian antipeace forces.

We in the PLO and PNA have taken decisive measures to preserve the national interests of the Palestinian people and to attain the national goal of creating the state.

As for the Israeli Government, if it continues to adopt the policy of appeasement, I believe that this radical wing in Israel will acquire more strength and might even affect the peace trend in Israel.

I concur totally with the Israeli prime minister's statements that there are forces that seek — through such operations — to topple not only the Labor Party but also to abort the orientation and trend toward peace in Israel as demonstrated by the Labor Party, Meritz, Peace Now Movement, and other Arab parties calling for the creation of a Palestinian state.

[Milhim] But, there is visible evidence that some Israeli fingers are involved in this operation as well as in previous operations.

['Abd-al-Rahim] I suggested this when I spoke about coordination or convergence of interests. During the trial of some of those who were involved in recruiting juveniles and writing bequests following Bet Lid operation, it was revealed to us — through their confession before the court — that they sent the perpetrators of the operation to al-Dihniyah camp — a camp for collaborators with the occupation located in the south of the Gaza Strip which no one can enter, not even the joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols. How could they enter al-Dihnyiah camp where they slept a night, were provided with military fatigues, and highly-explosive devices? How could they arrive in Bet Lid despite all these hurdles? There is also a big question with regard to the Ramat Gan and Jerusalem operations? There are questions with regard to many of the operations that were carried out. [passage omitted]

Publisher Denies Hamas Attack Linked to Peace Talks

TA2308064095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with 'Imad al-Faluji, publisher of Gaza's AL-WATAN newspaper, which is "identified with Hamas in the territories," by correspondent Itay Engel, in Gaza; date not given — recorded; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Engel] Beyond taking initial responsibility for the Jerusalem bombing in its announcement from Damascus, everybody identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has made sure he does not say anything publicly on the matter. But in order to try to get some idea of how Hamas regards the attack, we telephoned 'Imad al-Faluji in Gaza last night. He is the owner of AL-WATAN, which is identified with Hamas in the territories. Al-Faluji took a lot of trouble to avoid referring to what happened in Jerusalem on Monday [21 August] even after we repeatedly asked him about it. He only used Hamas' known slogans.

[Al-Faluji] *What happened in the bus, it is result for what Israel did in the land.*

[Engel translates the above and continues] Al-Faluji said that Hamas wants genuine peace in the region. He blames 'Arafat for failing to achieve rights for the Palestinians in the negotiations with Israel. In response to our question on whether it is the Hamas attacks that are holding up the peace process, al-Faluji said there is no connection between the attacks and the negotiations.

[Al-Faluji] *Hamas attacked before the negotiations with Israel; Hamas attacked before this process. As I told you, Hamas gives Israel their points [word as heard] since 1994. When Hamas did that, Hamas maybe to do ceasefire with Israel if Israel gives us our rights.*

[Engel translates the above and continues] Following the Jerusalem attack, 'Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi said he is ashamed that the terrorists who perpetrate the attacks are part of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Faluji] *Ahmad al-Tibi can say what he can. I do not want to speak about al-Tibi. Everyone can say anything.*

[Engel] During the interview, we could hear in the background al-Faluji's friends, and we understood from him that they also belong to Hamas. We asked whether his friends are pleased about the bombing.

[Al-Faluji] *I didn't ask them.*

[Engel] *Are you happy?*

[Al-Faluji] *I am very sad because our people until now they are in difficult life. I am not happy because I feel that in our region until now there is not real peace.*

Gaza Closure Lifted; 6,000 Workers To Enter Israel

JN2308081095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities lifted the military closure of the Gaza Strip at dawn today. Voice of Palestine correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun reports from Gaza.

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] The Israeli occupation authorities this morning lifted the military closure imposed on the Gaza Strip following the Israeli bus explosion in Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem. A few thousand Palestinian workers in the Strip went to their jobs in the green line areas. Colonel Radwan Abu-al-Qumsan, Palestinian official in charge of the Erez crossing, said Palestinian workers headed for their jobs this morning, but only those with work permits and new magnetic cards were allowed to enter. The Israeli authorities denied entry to those holding the old magnetic card, despite the Israeli decision to permit them to continue to use them until 1 September.

Col. Abu-al-Qumsan said only 6,000 workers are expected to cross the Erez checkpoint today. He pointed out that these workers are the ones holding the new cards, and they are from Gaza, Jabaliya, Bayt Lahiya, Bayt Hanun, and al-Nusayrat, while workers from the al- Burayj camp will be issued new cards today. Abu-al-Qumsan added that the number of Palestinians who were allowed to enter is not enough, considering the current difficult economic situation in the Strip.

Abu-al-Qumsan said travelers to the West Bank or abroad are still not allowed to use the Erez crossing.

He hope this problem will be solved soon. Workers denied entry to the green line zone expressed dismay and announced their rejection of the military siege policy exercised by the Israeli occupation authorities. [end recording]

The occupation authorities will maintain the West Bank closure until 24 August.

'Arafat Stresses Importance of Jerusalem, Hebron

JN2108201995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that Jerusalem will be the capital of a Palestinian state and that the march will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over the walls, minarets, and churches of holy Jerusalem.

In a speech he delivered during a celebration organized by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs at the Shaykh 'Awwad Hall of al-Azhar University in Gaza this evening on the ill-omened 26th anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque, President 'Arafat wondered: Why are we turned away from Jerusalem every time we come close to it? He added: If someone has a reservation on the Oslo agreement, I have a thousand reservations on it. But, he said, we are following the example of the messenger, God's prayer and peace be upon him, who made peace with enemies

The president stressed that through national unity and strength, we can confront all conspiracies concocted against the Palestinian people. He appealed to the Palestinian people to save the march so that we can go to Jerusalem, pointing out that there is an attempt to prevent us from reaching the West Bank and Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat also said that Jerusalem is a red line that should not be crossed. He stressed that what counts is our higher interests, rather than the interests of some who receive orders and money from abroad. President 'Arafat also announced that all hands receiving orders from abroad to achieve foreign interests will be cut off.

The president also spoke about the Taba talks, and said: We will not relinquish Hebron, which is a subject of dispute in the talks.

For his part, Shaykh Yusuf Salamah, assistant under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, said that al-Aqsa Mosque is for the Arabs and Muslims and stressed the need to achieve national unity and to use all efforts to protect al-Aqsa Mosque. Shaykh Salamah appealed to the Arab and Islamic nations to support the Palestinian people to protect their sanctities and build their Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He added that al- Aqsa Mosque would be restored despite all conspiracies against it.

Presidency Secretary al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Housing Minister Dr. Zakaraiya al-Agha, Chief Qadi Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sirdanah, and several figures, imams, and ulema also attended the celebration.

Mufti on Situation in Jerusalem, Ties With Israel

NC2108150895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 9

[Interview with Jerusalem Mufti Shaykh 'Ikramah Sabri by Yusuf Sa'd in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sabri] We have rights and we will definitely obtain them. All people can seek what they want, but not at the expense of others. We, the Palestinian people, exist and are steadfast in the holy land. We have a mission that we must fulfill through legal means and constructive dialogue.

[Sa'd] Has Israel changed its repressive methods after beginning the peace process and during the negotiations?

[Sabri] Israel continues its inhuman and arbitrary measures, such as the expropriation of land, the establishment of settlements, and bringing Jews from abroad to settle in these territories. In addition, the extremist Jews attempted to desecrate the al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Sa'd] What have you done since the Israeli court allowed Jews to visit the al-Aqsa Mosque?

[Sabri] At the beginning, we left the issue to the Palestinian Police to check if these visits would violate security. Afterwards, me met with the Palestinian police and informed them of the seriousness of the Israeli court verdict and the grave consequences. The extremist Jews have not entered the al-Aqsa Mosque square. We adopt a principled stance which we will not give up whether we are weak or strong. We are strong in our faith and will not relinquish al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Sa'd] What about the partition of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque?

[Sabri] The partition is a flagrant aggression against the rights of Muslims.

[Sa'd] What has happened? I am asking about reactions?

[Sabri] We protested and rejected the partition. We still protest the move and we staged several demonstrations and sit-ins to express our opposition to the partition. We do not recognize this partitionment.

[Sa'd] What about the fedayeen operations against the Zionist enemy?

[Sabri] Israel is taking arbitrary measures and the Israelis expect reactions.

[Sa'd] What is the truth in reports that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is now between the anvil of the Palestinian police and the hammer of the Zionist enemy?

[Sabri] This is untrue.

[Sa'd] How would you explain Hamas' claim that the Palestinian police are repressing them?

[Sabri] I have no knowledge of this issue.

[Sa'd] What is the true situation in Jerusalem?

[Sabri] The situation in Jerusalem is vague because the Israeli stance is intransigent. Israel continues its aggressive measures to give the holy city a Jewish character. This is being rejected.

[Sa'd] What is your stance on the normalization of relations?

[Sabri] We are opposed to normalization because the Palestinian issue has not been resolved and the issue of Jerusalem is on hold. Israel wants to normalize the situation to deny us our rights and gains. It wants normalization to delude the world into believing that it has reached agreement with the people of Palestine, that the people of Palestine have taken their rights, and that the issue is resolved.

[Sa'd] What have you done to confront this situation?

[Sabri] We informed the world at the Jerusalem conference in Cairo that the issue is not over, that Israel continues its arbitrary measures, that we have not taken our rightful place, and that normalization of relations is rejected.

[Sa'd] Have you held a religious dialogue with the Zionist enemy?

[Sabri] We have not and we remain opposed to the Zionist entity.

New Splinter Group Forms From PFLP-GC

TA2208154395 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — A split in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] was announced yesterday in Amman. The split is being led by a number of PFLP-GC cadres in Palestine and Jordan.

A group of cadres from the organization announced the establishment of a new leadership, called "the provisional leadership," as opposed to the faction led by 'Ahmad Jibril from Damascus. A "provisional leadership" spokesman told AL-HAYAH AL- JADIDA that the political dispute between the external groups and the front's leadership had reached a dead end after eight months of internal dialogue in which hundreds of cadres from various arenas had participated.

The "provisional leadership" spokesman said that the majority of the cadres decided to rectify the front's path and announce a political position that deals positively with the current stage against the background of rapprochement with the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority.

The spokesman added that a "provisional leadership" delegation, made up of members in Palestine and one from Jordan, met two weeks ago with President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. The spokesman said that another meeting with President 'Arafat will be held within days to discuss the return of the front's cadres to the PLO's ranks, the return to Palestine of the organization's members living abroad, the front's participation in PLO institutions, and receipt of the front's share of the budget of the Palestinian National Fund.

The spokesman declared that the "provisional leadership" requested the meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat and pointed out that the president welcomed this step.

The spokesman said that more than 500 cadres from inside took part in the internal dialogue. He pointed out that some cadres living abroad expressed their readiness to return to the homeland in order to prepare for the seventh general conference which will choose a new leadership and approve a new political program. This will be the front's first conference in Palestine.

The "provisional leadership" consists of 14 members, six in Palestine and eight in Jordan. They are: Salim Abu-al-Sa'ud, Bashir Abu-Shamiyah, Ja'far Salih, Dallal 'Awdah, 'Izz-al-Din Abu- Khalid, 'Isa Abu-'Ala', Fu'ad Nawfal, 'Umar 'Abdallah, Ratib Zahir, Muhammad al-Hur, 'Abd-Rabbuh Hawajrah, Jamal Abu-Faris, 'Umar Suwaydan, 'Isa al-'Ajuri.

Paper Reopens; Jerusalem Police Holding al-Rujub Man

TA2008183795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Sulayman al-Shafi and Yoram Binur video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There have been sharp reactions in the territories to what is perceived as attempts initiated by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to silence dissent. Last week, 'Arafat ordered the closure of AL-QUDS, a newspaper published in Jerusalem, because of an article about his opponent, Faruq Qaddumi. AL-QUDS reappeared today. Our correspondents Sulayman al-Shafi and Yoram Binur report.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] [passage omitted] Today, AL-QUDS published a short apology stating that the paper's publication had been prevented as a result of circumstances beyond its proprietors' control. The publisher of AL-QUDS is known to be a tough man who does not even fear a confrontation with 'Arafat. Nevertheless, he arrived as summoned in Gaza today, and upon leaving a difficult meeting with 'Arafat, ignored questions by news correspondents. [passage omitted]

The closure of AL-QUDS is viewed in the territories as the most blatant example of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] silencing dissent. [passage omitted]

In the past, the PA has closed a number of small papers which overtly belonged to the opposition press. This time, AL-QUDS was affected. This is an independent and prestigious newspaper viewed in the territories as the Palestinian counterpart of HA'ARETZ. The Fatah movement's Jerusalem leadership, who are considered liberals, held a news conference today to warn Israel against acting against Palestinian institutions in the capital; however, they did not conceal their criticism of 'Arafat's move. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 August reports that "the Jerusalem District Police have arrested for interrogation a member of Jibril al-Rujub's Palestinian security service which operates in East Jerusalem. The man, Ahmad Ghanim, is suspected of threatening the editors of AL-QUDS on 18 August, and ordering them to close the newspaper on al-Rujub's orders because of what he described as offensive articles. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that during a search of the man's home, policemen with the city's minorities department discovered various documents, stamps, and military insignia."]

PFLP-GC Denies Three Gunmen Killed in Clash

JN2008182895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam 'Aql in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since yesterday morning, the Lebanese media have experienced two days of confusion. With variable reservations, these media reported the confrontation between the Zionist enemy and resistance men from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and Hizballah in the township of Yuhmur near al-Nabatiyah. [passage omitted]

A responsible military source in the PFLP-GC has stated that the reports carried by some news agencies, citing sources of the Zionist enemy and its agents, on the martyrdom of three PFLP elements are baseless and untrue. None of our heroic comrades was harmed, he said.

The military source added: It seems that the enemy confuses its wishes with reality. The enemy does this whenever it plans to attack the strugglers, resistance men, and mujahidin.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Savir, Abu-'Ala' Resume Elat Peace Talks

TA2208132795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians resumed in Elat a short while ago. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the heads of the two delegations, agreed to resume the talks in all the committees in a bid to attain a draft interim agreement by the end of the week.

Quray' Comments

JN2208140495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed in Elat this afternoon after they were suspended yesterday in the wake of the Jerusalem suicide operation.

Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade and head of the Palestinian delegation, told Voice of Palestine that the negotiations are among the most difficult and complicated negotiations and that they constitute an important prop for any future final status agreements.

Minister Quray' added that in view of the importance of these negotiations, over 90 Palestinian experts in all fields of negotiations have been rallied to ensure arriving at results that can be confidently adopted as a basis for all the final status agreements.

Algeria

Algerian Commandos Reportedly Behind Bombings

LD2208222495 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brahim Younessi, the former right-hand man of Cheikh Sahraoui, who was killed in Paris, has made a statement in connection with the Paris bombing.

Brahim Younessi says that this killing and the bombings at Metro Saint-Michel and Place de l'Etoile are connected and have been carried out by Algerian commandos.

In his statement to the newspaper LE FIGARO, Brahim Younessi adds that the only logical objective of those behind the bombings is to discredit the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the supporters of dialogue within the Algerian authorities.

Mali, Chad Foreign Ministers Arrive for Conference

LD2208194995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The foreign ministers of Mali and Chad arrived this morning to attend the Sahel foreign ministers' meeting. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri received them at Houari Boumediene International Airport.

Delegations from Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal, and Libya are also expected in Algeria to attend this round of talks.

Nasser Ait Tahar has sent us this dispatch on the arrival of the first African delegations:

[Ait Tahar] On the eve of this meeting, representatives of the participating countries are still arriving in Algeria. Dionkouda Traore, the foreign minister of Mali, and Ahmat Abderamane Haggar, foreign minister of Chad, arrived today at Houari Boumediene Airport. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, and the ambassadors of Chad and Mali to Algeria, welcomed them at the airport.

The Malian minister of foreign affairs gave a statement upon his arrival to the national press.

[Begin Traore recording, in French fading into Arabic report] Mr. Dionkouda Traore said that he was invited by his brother and friend Mohamed Salah Dembri to participate in the meeting of the Saharan and sub-Saharan countries. As you undoubtedly know, the minister said, the meeting brings together all the Saharan and sub- Saharan countries in order to discuss the various issues of common interest, especially the two issues of security and development. Our region, he added, is facing several threats and challenges. They all, despite being different, fall within the domain of security.

He also said that the meeting would allow the exchange of views and experiences related to this issue as well as the discussion of the possible solutions in order to spread stability in our countries so that they can progress and pursue development and cooperation.

The Malian minister of foreign affairs considers tomorrow's meeting an introduction to other talks and meetings. He expressed his wish for the second meeting of the Saharan and sub-Saharan countries to be fruitful and constructive. [end recording]

Chad's Foreign Minister Ahmat Abderamane Haggar was the second foreign minister to be received this morning at Houari Boumediene Airport. He gave a statement to the national press.

[Begin Haggar recording, in French fading into Arabic report] Mr. Haggar first thanked Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri for the warm welcome he and his accompanying delegation received. He added: You undoubtedly know that this visit is for the participation in the ministerial meeting of the Sahel-Saharan countries. It is a very important meeting for us because it touches upon two extremely important issues, namely security and cooperation.

In the end, Mr. Haggar expressed his hope for the meeting to be constructive and fruitful. [end recording]

We have seized the chance of our meeting with Dembri, who was receiving his Chad and Malian counterparts, and asked him about the main topics of the meeting of the Saharan and sub-Saharan countries and about the objectives which he expected to be achieved. He answered:

[Begin Dembri recording] This meeting of the Saharan and sub- Saharan community will be held for the second time in Algeria. [passage omitted] With our present limited capabilities we should agree on a common framework of cooperation in order to maintain the general balance of each society of the Saharan and sub-Saharan countries.

In August 1994, at the Bamako meeting, we reached a provisional assessment. Today in Algiers meeting we may succeed in drawing up a working plan for the coming years and also the general framework which would cover all our actions. [end recording]

Prime Minister Receives Nigerian Delegation

LD2108211795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today received Alhadj Abu Gidado, the Nigerian minister of state for finance and personal envoy of the Nigerian president.

The Nigerian envoy delivered a message from the Nigerian President General Sani Abacha to President Liamine Zeroual.

The talks between the two sides touched on matters of mutual concern and bilateral relations.

Also discussed at this meeting were the need to work for bolstering consultations and cooperation between Algeria and Nigeria, and the promotion of an African solidarity endeavor in the sphere of economic and social development.

President Wishes Success for Polisario Conference

LD2208141995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leading an important Algerian delegation Cherif Rahmani, minister of equipment and urban planning, is participating in the Ninth Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Conference.

Speaking at the conference Cherif Rahmani expressed the hope that this conference would result in giving a real momentum to the Sahraoui people in their bitter struggle and bring about more harmony and solidarity between the Sahraoui people and their leadership. He declared that President Liamine Zeroual asked him to convey to the fraternal Sahraoui people, and to all the participants in the conference, a message of appreciation and to wish them total success.

Participation at Polisario Conference Noted

LD2008230595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a time when the peace process in the Western Sahara is not making any progress due to deep differences between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] over the voters' identification, the Polisario has been holding its ninth conference since yesterday.

The Polisario believes that this conference is liable to highlight national achievements and place a new brick in the building of the Saharan state.

Algeria is represented at this conference by the following: Cherif Rahmani, minister of equipment and urban planning; Nourddine Kasdalli, minister delegate to the interior minister in charge of local authorities and administrative reform; and Ahmed Attaf, minister delegate to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs.

The attendance of this important delegation embodies Algeria's support for the just cause of the Saharan people and its adherence to international legitimacy and the UN peace plan.

Algeria is concerned over the delay in implementing the UN peace plan and has repeatedly called on the Organization of African Unity, which considers the Saharan republic a full member, as well as the United Nations to shoulder responsibility and implement the peace plan in the Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

FLN Leader Confirms Boycott of Elections

LD2308092595 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Five candidates have thus far declared their intention to run for president in Algeria. [passage omitted]

The big opposition parties are against the elections. They are demanding a true dialogue before any election is organized. For the former sole party, the National Liberation Front [FLN], things are clear, it will not field a candidate. FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri confirmed this to Mokhtar Gaouad:

[Begin Mehri recording] The FLN will not support any presidential election. The FLN does not support the continuation of the current policy. It does not support prearranged elections and will not field candidates. The FLN will not sponsor any candidates, even if they claim their adherence to the party.

When there are no constitutional institutions in a country, there is no political freedom. There is a security situation which is characterized by the toll of 50,000 in four years. I think the situation is so exceptional as to warrant exceptional guarantees. Even normal guarantees for an election in which all the political forces participate are not available.

This is an election decided and organized by the regime alone. We demand that these elections be preceded by a return to guaranteed constitutional freedoms. [end recording]

Exiled Leader: 'Freedom Fighers' To Stop Election

MS2208072095 London THE TIMES in English
19 Aug 95 p 13

[Report by Mark Huband incorporating interview with Anour Haddam, exiled Leader of Islamic Salvation Front, 18 Aug; place not given—"Algeria Radicals Vow To Stop Poll"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algeria's Islamic opposition threatened to intensify its armed campaign if the Government stages a presidential election, which, it was announced yesterday, would be held on November 16.

"The freedom fighters will not allow an election," Anour Haddam, exiled leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said in an interview with The Times yesterday.

Talks between President Zeroual and the FIS, aimed at meeting the front's demands for a return to democracy after the army cancelled elections in 1992, collapsed five weeks ago. That has been followed by one of the bloodiest phases in the country's three-year war between the security forces and Islamic militants in which 40,000 people have been killed.

"We are against any act of terrorism, but we do support strongly the freedom fighting," Mr Haddam said.

In the past three days newspapers have reported a series of killings: a family of five were murdered when a bomb was thrown into their Algiers home; and seven villagers from the Ain Defla region about 75 miles from Algiers were kidnapped by militants and later beheaded.

Two car bomb blasts, in which a ten-year-old girl was killed and several injured, were reported yesterday by Algiers residents. The girl's mother died of a heart attack after the explosion.

Pressure on all sides to resume dialogue has mounted since Mr Zeroual held consultations this week with opposition parties, including the Islamic Hamas party. Despite his condemnation of the election, Mr Haddam acknowledged that FIS leaders may meet Mr Zeroual next week.

The President said yesterday that the election campaign would run from October 22 to November 13. A second round of voting would be held within 15 days of the first-round results being declared.

Renewal Party Leader To Run for President

LD2008154695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal announced his official candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections that are due to be held on 16 November.

The leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal announced this today in a news conference at the Aurassi Hotel in Algiers.

Dalila Bouhana attended the news conference and sent this report:

[Begin Bouhana recording] In a news conference held by Boukrouh this afternoon at the Aurassi Hotel with the national press, the leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal announced his candidacy for the forthcoming presidential elections.

As Boukrouh said, this decision was considered a duty and an obligation in the present circumstances experienced by Algeria.

He also considered that the presidential elections were the only way out of the crisis. Thus, all concerned sides should contribute toward making them successful, because, Boukrouh added, the people demanded an end to everything that has caused its suffering and demanded the creation of a new Algeria that is free of all negative aspects.

Boukrouh said that he was not proposing himself to occupy a senior position but was offering a conception, a program, and solutions capable of taking Algeria safely into the 21st century. He added that he was not a man with a corrupt past and was not the man responsible for the crisis and had not taken part in it, but he was a man of construction and reconciliation.

Finally, the leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal renewed his adherence and concern for the principles of November 1954. [end recording]

Candidate Gives Reasons for Presidential Campaign

LD2208203295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1800 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] What is behind Mrs. Mahjoubi Chelbia's candidacy? Her press officer, whom Badia Hadad spoke with, gave the following answers:

[Begin press officer recording] Algerian women have been marginalized since independence. Given our program, which supports the interests of women and youth in Algeria, the members of the national bureau of the MJD [Movement for Youth and Democracy] have suggested the candidature of Mrs. Mahjoubi Chelbia — a member of the national council and the rapporteur of the economic commission at the Transitional National Council — in the presidential elections, first and foremost in a bid to break taboos and to show international opinion that Algerian women exist on the political scene. [end recording]

Fifth Candidate Announces for Presidency

LD2208175895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The fifth candidate for the presidency is the leader of the Islamic Arab Rally, Mr. Ali Zeghdoud.

Sifi on Role of Judiciary in Elections

LD1708122495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the two-day meeting between the government and regional representatives, today the first of a series of regional seminars on the organization of the presidential elections will be launched at the Palais des Nations. These seminars are hosted by the Interior Ministry. Various aspects of the elections are to be examined in a total of 17 regional seminars.

Another important meeting is scheduled for tomorrow: the government will meet magistrates, representatives of administrative districts, and the leaders of communal executive delegations. Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi is optimistic as to the timeliness of this meeting. He was interviewed by Rania Cherif:

[Begin Sifi recording] The judiciary is directly involved. In order to see to the excellent coordination between local authorities and magistrates, there will be a meeting dealing with all the issues and all the questions of interest for the two sides. You know that the electoral commission is chaired by a magistrate and that the role of the magistrate is important at all stages of the electoral operation. That is why the two sides must be coordinated. This is what the meeting aims to achieve. [end recording]

Sifi Calls For Updating Electoral Lists

LD1808163795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting between the government and the representative of administrative districts ended with a speech by the prime minister, in which Mokdad Sifi stressed the need to update the electoral lists:

[Begin Sifi recording] Updating the electoral lists must be done with the utmost [word indistinct]. This is essential. As we all know, these lists — the electoral lists — are linchpin of the elections and any monitoring. This is why we must give all necessary care to drawing up the electoral lists. And we should not forget the electoral lists of the security services — of [word indistinct] and security services — which must be able to vote. [end recording]

Zeroual Addresses War Veterans, Speaks on Elections

LD1908173895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As promised, here is the text of a speech by President Liamine Zeroual, which he delivered today.

[Begin Zeroual recording] [passage omitted] As you know, the door to dialogue is always open, and eventually the people and history will judge all those who have violated the right of the Algerian nation. In the meantime, the Algerian people are getting ready to give their verdict and express their sovereign choice within less than three months. [passage omitted]

The upcoming free and democratic presidential elections will not be the end but the beginning of a path full of challenges which must be faced. It is true that the savage terrorism and the political discourse have dominated the arena for some time, but they have never been able to hide from the citizens the daily challenges of a development which must be continued in order to respond to the aspirations of our people, particularly the legitimate needs of our youth which is the force and future of this nation. [passage omitted]

It is true that the savage terrorism and the political discourse have dominated the arena but they cannot conceal the need for strengthening an authentic democracy and pluralism, in which the real national interest will be the common factor. In this democracy, nobody will from now on assume a national responsibility without obtaining the approval of the people, and without being accountable to the Algerian people. Algeria must thus complete the process of a deep break, which I have adopted, in the service of a new national order, and under the aegis of faithfulness to all our real national values, which became embodied with the glorious November revolution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President Zeroual Meets RCD Secretary General

LD2008175495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Continuing his consultations on the presidential elections, President Liamine Zeroual today received Said Saadi, the secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], at the presidential headquarters.

Following the meeting, the RCD issued a statement stressing that the presidential elections were the first political opportunity presented to Algeria to overcome the crisis.

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks on POW's, Iraq, Sudan, Bosnia

NC2208184895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1750 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria, 22 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reaffirmed his eagerness to meet with the youths and staff at various Egyptian universities to discuss all issues in the internal and external affairs.

At his meeting with the youths and staff members of universities today at the Grand Conference Hall in Alexandria, which lasted two and a half hours, President Mubarak said that "despite the fact the August has become a month characterized by international events and many preoccupations, I am always eager to meet with my sons the youths during this month to answer any questions you may have and explain to you all issues openly." He confirmed that everyone is working for the sake of the public good and for the sons of Egypt and future generations, who are the hope of the future.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif disclosed this in a statement. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that during the meeting President Mubarak discussed reports going round regarding a rotation of power. He said that any rotation of power must be in the interest of the people and in accordance with the Constitution and the law. The process should not merely be a transfer or rotation of responsibility between one party or another. These are issues dealing with the interests of the people. The people are the ones who define the course of action.

The president said that our responsibility is to look after the poor and disadvantaged people. Although there is some suffering in Egypt, this country is still better off by far than some others. It is not the only one suffering from economic problems; the whole world is suffering from such problems, and there are some nations where citizens sleep on the pavement and in subways.

The president pointed out that during the floods and earthquake crises, Egypt built houses and handed them over to the afflicted people for free. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about terrorism and when it will be eliminated, President Mubarak pointed out that terrorism is an international phenomenon not peculiar to Egypt, the information minister said. We know there are many terrorist incidents in France, the United States, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Denmark, and Israel. This is a phenomenon we are dealing with in Egypt very firmly for the sake of the people.

The president warned that if this phenomenon spreads, it will have dangerous and negative repercussions on investment, tourism, the economy, and most importantly the security of society and the future of its sons, as well as on efforts to preserve its characteristics and civilization.

The president said that this phenomenon is under mantle that has nothing to do with religion. He confirmed that Egypt formulates and bases its social policy on strong grounds and firm principles; its major consideration is always the interests of the people.

The president noted that Sudan is playing a role in supporting and exporting terrorism to Egypt. He clarified that the Sudanese people are a good people. "However," the president explained, "we are both suffering from the bad judgment of their rulers."

Responding to a question about elections, President Mubarak said that in every society during elections money is spent here and there. But in Egypt we rely on the vigilance of the citizen to cast his vote in favor of the deputy who is able and competent to represent him and who is known for his patriotism and integrity. President Mubarak said that the National Democratic Party [NDP] chooses the best candidates and does not differentiate between men and women or between Muslims and Christians. The president was referring to remarks that the lists of NDP candidates include few Christians or women.

The president added that what governs the elections is the ability to win in the constituencies. He said: I tell the Christian that he is an Egyptian citizen and we do not differentiate between one citizen and another because of creed. That is because we all work under one banner, Egypt's banner. I hope that all citizens, be they Christians or women, will run in the elections.

Continuing, President Mubarak said that the government will not interfere in the elections. The government is always eager to ensure that the elections are honest, because there is no interest in supporting one individual at the expense of another, the president added.

Asked about Egypt's assistance to the Islamic countries that recently won their independence from the Soviet Union, President Mubarak said: We are doing our best to assist and help them. Roles are also being played by al-Azhar, the cultural centers, and businessmen. President Mubarak stressed that Egypt cooperates with but it does not impose itself on any state.

Asked about the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the president said that the Palestinian issue and the Israeli conflict began 50 years ago and, therefore, we do not expect a solution to the conflict overnight. He said now there is the issue of the settlements. The president referred to the documents of the Camp David accord and what they could have achieved for the Palestinian issue. He said that the Egyptian document ended with the peace accord and the second paper was presented for the sake of the principles according to which all aspects of the Palestinian problem will be solved.

President Mubarak said that the bilateral negotiations are continuing, although they were suspended because of the Jerusalem incident. He said there are forces that do not want peace and who continue to entertain ideas from the past, even though the world is now governed by new concepts and the communications revolution, which has toppled all barriers. Nevertheless, the negotiations are continuing and we hope that the two sides will work out an agreement. President Mubarak said that the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track is forging ahead.

Responding to a question about the Egyptian POW's who were killed in 1956 and 1967, President Mubarak said: We did not know about that. We only learned about it from the research by one of the Israeli think tanks. We asked Israel about it. We do not want any problems between the two countries, but we want them to investigate the incident where our sons were killed. We must know the facts. This is a crime that is not subject to the statute of limitations. The Geneva Convention is clear: Individuals made mistakes, but they must publicize the results of the investigations so that those responsible will stand trial.

Asked about the Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said there are no problems with Libya; the relations between the two countries are good. He said that Libya is treating Egyptian workers extremely well. Problems involving a certain group under certain circumstances do not mean that there is a bilateral problem regarding the workers.

President Mubarak then answered a question on the political and economic effect of U.S. aid on Egypt. He noted that U.S. aid amounts to approximately $2.1 billion, a major part of which goes to the Armed Forces and the remainder serves the economy. He stressed that the U.S. aid will not cause Egypt to change its clear-cut policy. He noted that this aid serves common interests and that we realize that it will not last forever nor do we expect it to. He added: This was my clear answer to congressmen when I was asked about this. He added: We have friendship with the United States and with congressmen, to whom I speak frankly and explain the facts and with whom we have mutual respect. I have explained that there must be equal treatment in the aid to Egypt and Israel. The president stressed that aid must not cause or lead us to any changes in our policy or stands and that no policy will ever be imposed on us. Instead, he added, we deal with each other as friendly states. [passage omitted]

Regarding the latest developments in the investigations into the Addis Ababa incident, President Mubarak said that terrorists want to commit their crimes without being brought to justice. He stressed that he will continue to confront terrorism to protect the people from their enemies, noting that he and the people are in the same boat regarding terrorism and that terrorists seek to jump to power in order to rule with an iron fist. President Mubarak pointed out that he had a feeling there was something unusual on the day of the incident. Unfortunately, he added, all the planning for the incident took place in Sudan. This is evident from the confessions of the five terrorists who received training with the group that carried out the attempt. The president noted that he completely rules out the possibility that Ethiopia had any thing to do with this incident, adding that the Ethiopian president was very disturbed by it and condemned the attack immediately after it took place. President Mubarak added that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will visit Ethiopia soon.

The president pointed out that the incident was carried out by Egyptians assisted by Sudanese. He regretted what Sudan is doing and stressed that God Almighty will call those rulers to account for what they are doing to Egypt. He noted that such incidents will have no effect, adding that he has seen danger before in his life and come face to face with death. He added: I am working for Egypt and the interest of the Egyptian people.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak had shed light on the question of Bosnia. Noting that it has become an international issue, Mubarak said that had the matter been handled within Europe, the situation would have been better than it is today and things would not have deteriorated as much. The president explained the effect of lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, noting that he supports a political rather than a military solution to this problem. He added: That is because once the embargo is lifted and weapons start pouring into Bosnia-Herzegovina, the international troops will withdraw, the Serb's violence will get more ferocious, and the destruction will affect life itself before the Bosnians have a change to use the weapons they receive. The president added that it is too late now to use force because it is too late to lift the embargo, noting that lifting the embargo would increase the Serb's violence to the point of extermination. He added: This is what I fear for the Bosnian people and this is why we support a political solution. [passage omitted]

Asked about the likelihood of privatizing the newspapers, President Mubarak said: We have national newspapers that belong to the public. There are also newspapers published by the political parties and other newspapers published in line with the Higher Press Council Law, the Press Authority Law, and the Publishing Law. We have around 550-600 newspapers in Egypt.

Mubarak declared that the national newspapers maintain a journalistic balance and although the criticism they make is sometimes strong, they are committed to national principles. He added: We are not prepared to privatize the national newspapers. The president explained: We are a developing country and cannot do everything like they do in Europe and the United States because of the different levels of public awareness here and there. The others are major industrial states while we are developing countries. We cannot sever the links that unite our society or the links between it and the outside world. The president said: I will not allow anything that will subject the people to danger under any slogans. [passage omitted]

Asked about the effect the defection of the Iraqi President's sons-in-law will have on inter-Arab relations, President Mubarak said that the flight of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil and his brother to Jordan with their families undoubtedly has had a negative impact on the Iraqi president. He said he does not wish to meddle in Iraq's internal affairs and does not want to discuss matters the details of which he is not familiar with. He remarked: In my opinion, based on my military experience, I do not believe that Saddam Husayn was planning to invade Kuwait again or even Saudi Arabia. Even if there were Iraqi troop movements, it is difficult to carry out such an undertaking.

President Mubarak referred to the advice that he gave President Saddam Husayn during the Kuwait crisis. He also pointed out that the Egyptian forces that participated in the liberation of Kuwait did not shed the blood of a single Iraqi soldier. He said that the Iraqi soldiers used to take shelter in the sector controlled by the Egyptian forces, where they were well received and cared for. President Mubarak added: It is regrettable that Saddam Husayn's daughters and their husbands have deserted him, regardless of my opinion of the man. My greatest sorrow, however, is reserved for the Iraqi people, who are suffering great hardships. I hope their conditions will improve.

Asked if the Nile water supplies to Egypt are secure and if its water share is threatened, the president said that absolutely nothing threatens the Nile water supply, noting that 85 percent of this water comes from Ethiopia. He noted that this issue was never raised with any Ethiopian president, past or present, and he stated that the flow of the Nile cannot be interrupted.

Musa Discusses Jerusalem Bombing, Jordan Visit

NC2208190895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the peace process, the ongoing negotiations, and the current developments in the Arab world during his visit to Jordan, which will begin on Saturday [26 August]. He added that he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral ties and regional activity.

Commenting on yesterday's bombing in Jerusalem, Musa said that such acts prove that extremists on both sides can harm the peace process, which is meant to return more territories to the Palestinians and ultimately give them the right to self-determination. He added that any impediment to this process will harm the Palestinian position. He stressed that there are people on both sides, not just on the Palestinian side, who stand to gain from the obstruction of the peace process. Musa added that Egypt hopes that the peace process will continue and result in balanced agreements that take into consideration mutual rights and lead to Palestinian people having the right of self-determination on their land—namely, the West Bank and Gaza.

Concerning the 4th International Conference on Women and Egypt's participation in it, Musa said that the final version of the conference's document will reflect the various viewpoints of various cultures, religions, and ideas concerning women's problems. It is not expected for one culture to impose its opinion on another culture, he added. He noted that the Egyptian delegation has several ideas and suggestions that reflect Egypt's viewpoint, which proceeds from respect for the Islamic shari'ah, Egypt's social views, and the ideas that have shaped Egypt's stand regarding the problems of women, the environment, human rights, and social development.

He stressed the need for Egypt to straighten things out and to make the final document as good as possible to better serve the world community. He stressed once again that Egypt will express reservations about anything in the document that is contrary to the Islamic shari'ah and the traditions of Egyptian society. [passage omitted]

Papers Blame Bus Bombing on Israeli 'Sluggishness'

NC2308061295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH maintain that violence [in the Middle East] is unleashed because Israel procrastinates over implementing the second part of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and because of Tel Aviv leaders' deliberately slow pace, obstructing a comprehensive peace in the region. The papers refer in this regard to the Jerusalem bombing yesterday [as received] in which seven Israelis were killed and 100 were wounded.

AL-AKHBAR says in today's issue that the policy Israel has been pursuing since the negotiations started seeks to prolong the occupation of Palestinian territory with a view to annexing this territory. Through this, the paper says, Israel is creating the motives for the opponents of peace to resort to violence.

The paper adds: If we blame extremists who oppose peace and try to plant mines in its way, we cannot absolve Israel of the charge that it is helping the extremists torpedo the peace process.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that the acts of violence are not received with joy and jubilance in Egypt or most of the Arab countries. It gives two reasons for this: First, such acts, no matter how patriotic the perpetrators regard themselves, are seen by most Arab leaders and politicians who try hard to regain their occupied soil as a hindrance to the peace process, giving the other side an excuse to obstruct the negotiations. Second, Israel stands to gain from these suicide operations, as they result in further suffering for the Palestinians.

In a similar commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that Israel's sluggishness in peace efforts has proved beyond doubt to be the cause of violence, whether by the Palestinian forces that oppose the Oslo agreement between Israel and the PLO, or by the Israeli extremists, who are trying very hard to seize Palestinian territory, establish settlements on it, and even incite the Israeli Government not to proceed with the peace negotiations.

The paper blames Rabin's government for these incidents and says the conduct of the Israeli Government has been the cause of great despair for many Palestinians.

The paper expresses its belief that although the Jerusalem blast was a bullet in the head of the peace process, peace is still in the intensive care unit, and can be saved by the immediate implementation of the long overdue second stage of the Palestinian self-rule agreement.

Commentary Views Erosion in Iraqi Regime

NC2208154295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "The Puzzles of the Tikrit Family in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] When the Tikritis took over Baghdad 16 years ago nobody inside or outside Iraq expected Saddam al-Tikriti to start a bloody era during which the Tikritis would take over the entire country, control destinies and wealth, and even cross borders to attack and occupy neighboring and fraternal countries and violate their freedoms and dignity.

But the in-depth and close readings were apprehensive of the Tikriti movement and realized that the Tikritis had come from Tikrit to control and dominate and to plunge Iraq and its people in a sea of blood and debt, even though Iraq is very rich in oil, water, soil, and people. But the abuse of authority by one individual ruler—the one and only leader portrayed by the propagandists as the defender of Arabism, the guardian of the eastern gateway of the Arab nation, and the liberator of Jerusalem through the occupation of Kuwait—has caused Iraq to collapse economically, the people to disintegrate socially, and the country to be isolated regionally and internationally. Since it is in the nature of such regimes to erode from within—just as fire feeds on fire—the Iraqi regime has started to wear out steadily since August 1990. And since it is normally in the nature of these regimes to cling to power, the Iraqi regime has resorted to all unlawful and illegitimate means to keep its gains intact and to remain in power. [passage omitted]

The announcement by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's strong man, that he is standing behind General Husayn Kamil, who recently escaped to Jordan, is a new blow to the Iraqi regime by one of Saddam's closest and strongest men. It will greatly help in unveiling and resolving the puzzles of the Tikritis in Baghdad, puzzles that will come to light for the first time and show the entire world how the rule of the one and only dictator relies on means that are beyond legitimacy and far from the humane and religious values known to mankind. Another benefit from solving the mysteries of the Tikritis in Baghdad is that this will expose other regimes that have modeled themselves after the idols of Baghdad. The fate of these other regimes will not be much different from those who are now hiding in pits to escape their inevitable doom.

Libya

Niger Prime Minister Arrives on 'Friendly' Visit

Joint Communique Issued

*LD2208201695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1830 GMT 22 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Surt, 22 Aug (JANA) — A press release was issued both in Niamey and Surt this afternoon after the visit of Hama Amadou, the prime minister in the Republic of Niger.

At an invitation of the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and in order to strengthen the fraternal relations between the Libyan Arab and Niger peoples, Hama Amadou, the prime minister of the Republic of Niger paid a working and friendly visit to the Great Jamahiriyah leading an important delegation which included in particular Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail during the period 21-23 August 1995. [passage omitted]

Talks were held between the two sides under the chairmanship of the brother secretary of the General Peoples' Committee and Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou in which an atmosphere of friendship and common understanding prevailed. These talks dealt with aspects of the bilateral cooperation and a number of African and international issues. [passage omitted]

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the contribution of the Libyan Arab-Niger joint bank in backing the programs of economic and social development in the Republic of Niger.

The two sides agreed to study domains for joint investments, and ways of offering the necessary facilities to encourage investors to set up joint companies and cooperatives in the fields of agriculture, animal resources, industry, and services. The Libya Arab side expressed satisfaction at the agreement signed between the Niger Government and the Niger Armed Resistance organization on 24 April 1995, and the Niger side expressed its deep appreciation of the efforts and initiatives of the brother leader of the 1 September revolution as a contribution to bringing about peace and national unity in Niger which are foundations for development and stability. The Niger side expressed solidarity with the Arab Libyan people, and support for the positive initiatives made by the Great Jamahiriyah with a view to putting an end to the crisis, and the lifting of the embargo imposed on the Arab Libyan people, in accordance with the resolutions of the OAU, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Arab League. [passage omitted]

The two sides studied the political situation on the African continent, and expressed their concern at the persistence of conflicts in some African countries. They urged the African states and the OAU to seek to eliminate these conflicts, and they stressed that debts which constitute a burden to most African states are an obstacle to economy, and they therefore called for measures to be taken which are likely to alleviate the burden of indebtedness.

The two sides stressed the need to give an impetus to the OAU so that the latter fully carries out its duty.

The two sides also expressed the importance of the Arab-African cooperation and called for the need to develop and diversify it.

The two sides expressed their interest in the revival of the grouping of the states bordering the Sahara and the development of relations between its members in the economic and security fields as this will become a factor of cohesion rather than separation between the countries north of the Sahara and the sub-Saharan ones. The fact that these states are brought together enables the peoples of the region to achieve stability, security, and cooperation. The two sides agreed on the importance of speeding up the adoption of measures for the convening of a summit of these states in the Great Jamahiriyah as soon as possible.

It was also agreed to hold the third session of the Libyan Arab-Niger joint committee in Niamey in December 1995. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Amadou Ends Visit

*LD2208135595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1056 GMT 22 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 22 Aug (JANA) — The Prime Minister of Niger Hama Amadou and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was seen off by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity. A number of officers of the armed people, and the ambassador and staff from the Republic of Niger Embassy to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Prior to his departure Hama Amadou gave a statement to JANA in which he expressed his high appreciation for the brother leader of the revolution in his stance vis-a-vis the people of Niger, the bolstering of its stability, and advancing the wheel of development in Niger. He said that the reception by the brother leader of the revolution expressed the extent and depth of relations between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Niger. He said that this visit has given a strong momentum to bilateral relations and will bolster bilateral cooperation in various fields. In conclusion Amadou reaffirmed that his country was working together with the rest of the

African countries to lift the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Numayri: Government-in-Exile To Form Soon

NC2308113095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1005 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that a new Sudanese government-in-exile will be proclaimed in the next few days at an international news conference. He pointed out that the Sudanese opposition is now holding consultations on this government and that it is receiving the political and moral backing of many Arab and African countries.

In statements to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, Numayri said the main purpose of the government is to overthrow the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime, which now poses a threat to the Sudanese people and all Arab and African states. The regime practices and supports terrorism, turning Sudan into an island isolated from the rest of the world, he said.

Numayri stressed that life for the Sudanese people will not improve unless the regime is overthrown. With the support of the fraternal countries that love Sudan, he said, the Sudanese people, the Sudanese opposition, and the disguised [mustatirah] Sudanese Government inside the country can overthrow the regime soon.

He added: We are preparing a host of programs and swift plans to remove the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and reestablish the Sudanese Government inside the country. He maintained that under the existing regime, all executive, legislative, cultural, and media institutions in Sudan are affiliated with al-Turabi and serve only the purposes of his [National Islamic] Front.

He emphasized that all these institutions will be reestablished through legitimate and democratic means to serve the interests of the Sudanese, Arab, and African peoples.

The worst thing the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime is doing after losing its credibility with the people, Numayri said, is to use the Sudanese media in a way that harms Islam, a way lacking any credibility regarding the destruction in Sudan.

Those who supported the terrorist practices of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime, added Numayri, have now realized that this regime is exploiting Islam in the worst way only to serve its own interests. Those people should therefore change their positions toward the regime and declare this before the whole world, he said.

Government Protests Rebel Recruitment of Refugees

EA2208215695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has sent an urgent note to the UN High Commission for Refugees concerning the rebel movement's attempts to forcibly recruit Sudanese refugees in refugee camps in Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda into the ranks of the movement. It also sent a similar appeal to all humanitarian voluntary organizations concerned with human rights to visit those camps and investigate the matter.

Mr. Edward Lino Rol Deng (WUOR) [expansion unknown], secretary general of the Supreme Council for Peace, said that the rebel [John] Garang had recruited about 18 people to propagate the aims of the rebellion and recruit refugees to improve the bad conditions that the rebellion was facing following the heightening of the acute differences and the increasing splits in its ranks in areas of northern Bahr al-Ghazal and western Equatoria.

Mr. Rol said that the council had made contact with the leaders of the rebellion's factions, who are engaged in internecine fighting, and had convinced them about the National Salvation revolution's offers, and the council believed that prominent rebel leaders would arrive in the country during the next two weeks. They expressed their desire for this to happen and for the arrangements, which were now underway, to bring about their return.

Rebel Factions Spar Over Leadership

AB2108104695 Paris AFP in English
1020 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) charged Monday [21 August] that the mainstream rebel faction led by John Garang had declared war on it and had ruled out reconciliation talks.

In a statement released here, SSIM spokesman David de Chand said he had received a "verbal communication" on Sunday from a senior official in Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) saying that the group was "no longer interested in peace talks unless the SSIM was headed by William Nyuon," a dissident member.

SSIM last week denied claims by Nyuon and another dissident, John Luk Jok, that they had deposed the group's leader, Riak Machar. De Chand said the alleged coup in the SSIM was a disinformation campaign orchestrated by Garang. Luk and Nyuon had defected to the SPLA, he added.

"It is now obvious that Garang has no agenda for peace but to wage war against SSIM," De Chand said. De Chand said Nyuon and Luk were now in the Kongor area of southern Sudan preparing to attack SSIM positions in Yuai, Ayod and Waat.

SSIM's "security organs" had asked Machar for for "extraordinary and emergency measures against any subversive activities related to this conspiracy," he said, adding that the SPLA would be held responsible for the consequences.

SPLA spokesman Steven Wondu told AFP that Pagan Amum, chairman of the SPLA's peace committee, had made it clear to the SSIM that his faction would not negotiate reunification with Machar because as far as the SPLA was concerned, he ceased to be SSIM's leader on August 14, when he was allegedly deposed by Nyuon.

Former US President Jimmy Carter visited Sudan last month to continue efforts to end the civil war there and called in Nairobi for unity talks between the rebels, saying: "I think it would be constructive to have unity within the southern command."

South Sudanese rebels took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 under Garang's SPLA. It split into two factions in 1991 when Machar, then Garang's deputy, left to form the SPLA-United. He changed the faction's name to SSIM in September last year, saying that it did not want to fight for a united secular Sudan, but for self-determination for the south. One of his colleagues, Lam Akol, then resurrected the SPLA-United under the leadership of SSIM dissidents.

Bahrain

'Source' Says Subversive Group Uncovered

JN2308062395 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0525 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 23 Aug (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry has said that the Ministry's public security organs have uncovered the members of a subversive group which committed acts of arson and sabotage of public and private installations in al-Diraz and Barbar areas.

The source added that the persistent efforts of public security men led to the arrest of this group which includes seven members. He explained that the defendants were referred to the investigating magistrate and that their detailed confessions were taken. They admitted forming a group to carry out acts of sabotage, arson, and destruction of public and private property in the areas of al-Diraz and nearby areas. They also admitted that they worked out plans to commit their crimes. They defined these plans and revealed the set dates for their crimes.

In their confessions, the defendants added that they recently damaged the al-Diraz branch of the National Bank of Bahrain and set fire and destroyed the water tank of the municipality in the area which used to supply municipality vehicles with water as a service for the country's citizens and residents.

They also admitted setting fire to three buses of the Arab Club in the same area, setting fire to a farm of a citizen, and rioting and burning gas cylinders on public roads to intimidate citizens.

Concluding his statement, the source said the members of this subversive group gave detailed confessions of their roles in planning and implementing their crimes. The investigating magistrate ordered them to be detained pending their trial.

Kuwait

National Assembly Discusses Iraqi Developments

LD2208182095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Assembly held a closed-door session today during which the assembly listened to statements about the latest developments in the region from the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the ministers of defense, information and interior.

Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun said that the one-hour closed-door session was held to hear the latest developments concerning the defection of the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals and president of the Military Industrialization Organization Husayn Kamil Hasan to Jordan and the repercussions of that event on the future of the region. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Barbados

LD2208181495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The states of Kuwait and Barbados decided to establish diplomatic ties. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that both the governments of Kuwait and Barbados has decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level out of the two governments' desire to develop and strengthen bilateral relations based on mutual respect of their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to develop bilateral cooperation.

Guinean Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2108131595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1245 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait — The Foreign Minister of Guinea Kozo Zomanigui today arrived here leading a delegation on a three-day official visit. Official sources told KUNA that the visiting minister was carrying a letter from the President of Guinea Lansana Conte to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah concerning bilateral relations in all fields.

Saudi Arabia

Need To Prevent Fragmentation of Iraq Seen

MM2308140295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 9

[Article by Huda al-Husayni: "Iraq's Unity First"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For a U.S. official to describe someone like Husayn Kamil as the man who knows all the secrets is laughable.

One sometimes wonders about U.S. positions and information. In a statement by U.S. officials, Husayn Kamil was described as a serious man who has credibility in Iraqi military and technocratic circles. One of them strayed even as far as saying that he was an organizational genius who had equipped Iraq with an enormous military apparatus which included an advanced air defense system!

The U.S. officials ignore, or rather persist in ignoring, the fact that Husayn Kamil is nothing but a murderer who squandered the Iraqi people's rights — something nobody cares to mention any more; who defected when he was exposed, and who stole hundreds of millions of dollars from the Iraqi people, who are suffering from hunger, blockade and illness; and that simply by virtue of leaving Iraq with his brother, using their wives as shields, he no longer qualifies for the position being prepared for him as the ruler of Iraq for an interim period, at the end of which he would be easily removed.

The great responsibility that now falls on Jordan's shoulders is to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity. Of course, it is in Jordan's interest that Iraq should remain united. Iraq, as an Arab country, is greater than Saddam Husayn and greater than his son-in-law Husayn Kamil. Iraq's disintegration is not in the interest of the whole region. It is a known fact that Jordan's King Husayn has expressed during the last months his apprehension concerning the Iraqi people's fate. On the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, he called for Iraq's return to the international community and demanded that the West define what is effectively required from Iraq to achieve that purpose. True, he did imply that Saddam's presence meant enduring hardship for his people, but the granting of political asylum to Husayn Kamil will not reflect positively on the Iraqi people. Husayn Kamil wants power, and to rule Iraq. He is the last person to care about the people's plight, and everyone is aware of the part he played in the invasion of Kuwait. In this context, the U.S. request that King Husayn sever economic ties with Iraq was unsatisfactory as far as he was concerned, to the point that he refused to comply with it or with the U.S. desire to change the regime in Iraq without knowing how to safeguard Iraq's unity, and with a tendency to throw all the responsibility onto Jordan. It is apparent that the Jordanian monarch is prepared to act to improve Jordan's regional and international relations, but not at any price, especially if the price is the fragmentation of Iraq. Strangely, we no longer differentiate between Saddam Husayn's regime and Iraq as an Arab country. It was announced last week that the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey will be meeting in Iran on 6 September to discuss the possibility of Iraq's fragmentation. Here, we must pause a while. Iraq's fragmentation would cause enormous strategic complications in the region, because the fighting between Kurds, Sunnis, and Shiites in Iraq would extend to the neighboring countries which contain the same factions. Jordan will not be immune to this infection, as it has just signed the peace treaty with Israel and contains a Palestinian majority, because not all Jordanians feel at ease with this course of action, and because Jordan's economy is unstable.

Now, if Arab officials are thinking of a secure future for their people — and it is time they did — they should insist that keeping Iraq united also constitutes a gain for the peace process, and consequently they must differentiate between Saddam Husayn's regime and Iraq as a united country. A change of regime in Iraq is a necessity, but it should be ensured that Iraq does not pay the price.

Bosnian Envoy Conveys Izetbegovic's Appreciation

*LD2008201695 Riyadh SPA in English
1932 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 20, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the national guard received at the royal court here on Sunday the Bosnian ambassador to the Kingdom who conveyed to him the compliments and appreciation of President Alija Izetbegovic and Moslem people of Bosnia to Custodian of the Two Holy Msoques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi leadership and people for the noble and brotherly stand with the Bosnian Moslems.

President Izetbegovic cited with appreciation the humanitarian positions of King Fahd, his wise government and the Saudi people and said the Bosnians would never forget such noble stands and the continuous assistance being rendered to the Bosnians since the start of the crisis until now including the latest fund-raising campaign of King Fahd to collect donations for the Bosnians.

Regime Criticized Over Alleged Commitment to Israel

*MM1808104895 London AL-SHAR'IYAH in Arabic
No. 2, Aug 95 p 8*

[Unattributed Report: "Saudi Family's Pledges to Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the Gulf war, royal orders were issued to Saudi Ambassador in Washington Bandar Bin Sultan to invite a number of leaders of the American Jewish Congress to meet with him directly, so that he could reassure them and reaffirm to them all the pledges that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had undertaken to fulfill once the Gulf war ended.

The meeting took place and was attended by the Jewish Congress members headed by Henry Seghan [as transliterated], president of the community, and Avi Barns [as transliterated], a close friend of then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The details of what had taken place at the meeting were published in the Israeli JERUSALEM POST newspaper in its 8 August 1991 issue. It was learned that the reason for publishing the details of the meeting was the Israeli Government's wish to tighten its grip on the

Government of the Kingdom and bring pressure to bear on it so that it would not wriggle out of its pledges to Israel.

The JERUSALEM POST disclosed inter alia that Bandar had told the meeting that "once the crisis ended, his government would declare its unconditional recognition of Israel's right to exist... and affirmed to them that his country would fully normalize its relations with Israel once a peaceful solution was reached."

Bandar had added during the meeting that "he — Bandar — had told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would participate in talks with Israel to resolve regional issues such as water, but that Riyadh would not hold direct talks with Israel and would not issue... at the present time... any official statements about its recognition of Israel"; and that he, Bandar, "had asked Baker to appreciate the Saudis' circumstances and to give them — in other words the Fahd Government — a period of grace to enable them to organize conditions and eliminate the current obstacles."

The JERUSALEM POST discovered that Bandar had a "shrewdness and brilliance"! which we had failed to observe. It said that he had "advised the American Administration — in his address to members of the American Jewish Congress — to use its right of veto against any resolutions condemning Israel at the UN Security Council because of its repeated aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Muslim holy places" in occupied Palestine because he felt that "any condemnation of Israel would constitute in part a victory for Saddam Husayn." Bandar 'Al-Sa'ud [as published] had also said that "the U.S. Administration failed to comply with his views and subsequently refrained from using its right of veto out of consideration for the Arab parties in the military alliance against Iraq."

In view of gravity of the above, the Royal Court might have been expected to issue one of its renowned denial statements, or at least attribute a statement to one of its alleged responsible sources denying that such a meeting had taken place and attributing the reports to biased campaigns by the spiteful hired pens of the country's enemies, as we have become accustomed to seeing. But nothing of the sort happened, and our sensible government, which is so famous for issuing statements casting doubt, denying, and rebutting, did not utter one single word.

It seems that by revealing the story, Israel tied our "responsible official's" tongue, and thus "Juhayzah shut the mouth of every speaker" [called it quits].

Yemen

Reform Group Leader Denies Backing Out of Coalition

MM2108133695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Naji al-Harazi: "Yemeni Reform Grouping Does Not Intend To Abandon Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Yadumi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, has denied that his party's pullout of the ruling coalition is currently being discussed. He stressed that the relationship with the General People's Congress is strategic "and cannot be affected by some of the erroneous practices that might be committed here or there by this or that person."

The Grouping party has been participating in the present government with the Congress party since October 1994 and the pullout of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Al-Yadumi said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he had issued no statement to the effect that his party would pull out of the coalition, describing what has been published by some newspapers as inaccurate.

The Yemeni politician pointed out that, in accordance with the government coalition document signed by his party and the Congress party, "either party is entitled to withdraw if it so decides. We in the Reform Grouping are still in the process of studying the experiment of the past months (since October 94). The experiment deserves to be studied and encouraged, because its positive aspects exceed the negative ones."

The secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping pointed out that some people are discussing that issue inside the party, but he said that that kind of thinking falls within the framework of democracy in the party.

The Yemeni politician denied the Yemeni opposition's accusations against his party and the People's Congress, namely that their prime concern is to remain in power even if that leads to the destruction of the democratic experiment in the country.

He said: "No agreement between us and any of the Yemeni political forces will be at the expense of democracy and political pluralism in Yemen."

Press sources in Sanaa had said that leaders of the hard-line wing in the Reform Grouping, including Yasin 'Abd-al-'Aziz (the party's deputy leader) and Muhammad al-Yadumi (secretary general), are leading a tendency to put pressure on the Grouping to accept the idea of an early withdrawal from the coalition in order to prepare for the parliamentary elections scheduled for April 1997.

Saddam Reportedly To Curb Son 'Udayy's Powers

NC2208151095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed political sources in London say that Iraq's ruler, Saddam Husayn, has recently been trying as best as he can to [words indistinct] of the family. Today the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM cited these sources in a London-datelined report, saying that one of the things Saddam might resort to in order to restore confidence internally is to restrict the activities of his son, 'Udayy, which have gone beyond acceptable limits.

[Word indistinct] and his reckless behavior has become the talk of the town in Iraq. He has exploited the great privileges his father gave him by oppressing and harassing everyone who opposes him. The sources add that Saddam is also trying to get closer to Iran to contain the severe effects of the U.S. siege [word indistinct].

Barzan al-Tikriti's Break From Regime Confirmed

NC2208145195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night the Iraqi mission to the UN headquarters in Geneva received confirmation of reports that the head of the mission, Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam Husayn's half-brother, has broken away from the regime, supported Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, who recently defected from Baghdad to Amman.

Said Willing To Support Hasan

MM2208141395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Zuhayr Qusaybati in London and AL-HAYAH bureau in Amman: "Will Barzan al-Tikriti End His Boycott of Husayn Kamil?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An informed Jordanian source confirmed to AL-HAYAH in Amman yesterday that Barzan al-Tikriti, the Iraqi president's half-brother and Iraqi ambassador at the UN headquarters in Geneva, has expressed willingness to support Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan. The source told AL-HAYAH that Barzan al-Tikriti "contacted Husayn Kamil and expressed support for his efforts to bring down the Iraqi regime, and told him that he would stand by him until the fulfillment of the Iraqis' dream of an end to the blockade and the downfall of the regime."

However, according to sources familiar with the situation in Iraq, there has been a "long-standing boycott" between Husayn Kamil and Barzan, President Saddam Husayn's half-brother. They pointed out that "Barzan was the first to object to Husayn Kamil being given any responsibilities since the latter's marriage to Saddam's daughter Raghad."

They voiced the view that "the purpose of leaking such reports is perhaps to block the chances of an improvement in relations between the Iraqi president and his three brothers Barzan, Watban, and Sab'awi." They noted that these reports emerged "just hours after Watban appeared on Iraqi television."

It has been claimed that Barzan is refusing to return to Baghdad. AL-HAYAH asked a source close to the ambassador about the authenticity of these claims. He replied: "There is no information." Asked if Barzan was in fact supporting Husayn Kamil, as AFP said citing "a well-informed Iraqi source" in Amman, he replied: "Ask Husayn Kamil." [passage omitted]

Opposition Says Hasan Seeks 'Peaceful Change'

MM2208152495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "According to Opposition Sources in London, Husayn Kamil Seeking Peaceful Change in Iraq, Planning To Move His Activities Outside Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Iraqi opposition sources in London have said that General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former industry minister and chairman of the Military Industrialization Organization in Iraq, who broke away from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn two weeks ago, is at present focusing his political moves on two levels:

First, local — that is, the opposition forces and figures abroad in addition to military and civilian figures who are still in the internal services of the regime or in the diplomatic corps abroad, with a view to coordinating with them to achieve a change in the Iraqi regime.

Second, Arab governments and the Security Council member states that have influence over the Iraqi situation, especially with regard to the sanctions imposed on Iraq, to persuade them to take a position that would help to speed up the change process in the regime. Specifically, through a "message" from these states to the Iraqis, stressing their willingness to reconsider many of the measures taken against Iraq once the required change has taken place.

According to the sources, which have made contacts with Gen. Kamil and his group over recent days, the Iraqi president's dissident son-in-law stressed that he is not aspiring to become a ruler of Iraq in place of Saddam Husayn to obtain privileges in a new regime. The sources quoted him as saying: "No future regime is going to offer us powers and privileges like those that we enjoyed until the day we left Baghdad." "If we were after power, we would not have relinquished its seats of our own will."

The sources in question added that Gen. Kamil gave them a strong impression that his breakaway is aimed against policies rather than individuals. And that he is now convinced that the continuation of previous [al-sabiqah] policies is causing a further destruction of Iraq and worsening the bloody political conflict. And that these policies could lead to civil wars and massacres in addition to further suffering for the Iraqi people as a result of international sanctions.

According to the sources, it seems that Gen. Kamil is in favor of a peaceful change process in which the Iraqi president and those around him would relinquish power voluntarily and leave the country. If that does not happen, the alternative would be a "carefully organized operation" ['amaliyah munazzamah bidiqqah] to achieve that aim, averting a total collapse of state institutions so as to avoid provoking troubles and bloody conflicts that would be difficult to control and liable to cause the fragmentation of the Iraqi state and Iraqi society.

The same sources said that Gen. Kamil has made contacts with a number of Iraqi opposition figures at various levels to exchange views as regards the steps that should be taken "without him imposing a specific program on others." In this context the sources denied that Gen. Kamil is seeking to form a provisional government in exile, but he does not rule out this option "if it is unanimously agreed by opposition forces and favorable conditions are available."

On Gen. Kamil's views vis-a-vis the post-Saddam Husayn stage, the sources in question said that he believes it is necessary to "form a transitional government to lead Iraq for a period of time ending with elections for a constituent assembly whose task would be to draw up a permanent constitution for the country — a constitution guaranteeing a peaceful political life, safeguarding human rights, and asserting Iraq's positive role on the Arab and international scenes." The sources added that Gen. Kamil expressed his willingness to coordinate and work with all forces and Iraqi opposition figures seeking a change process that "safeguards Iraq as a unified homeland and averts bloodletting."

With regard to the moves toward Arab and foreign governments, the sources said that Gen. Kamil believes that, in order to encourage a larger number of Iraqi officials — military and civilian — to stop supporting the Iraqi regime and to join the next change process, it is important that they receive from the Security Council and influential governments a "clear message" stressing that post-Saddam Husayn Iraq "will get different treatment" from the way it has been treated over the past five years. In conclusion, the sources said that Gen. Kamil could move the center of his activities from the Jordanian capital, Amman, to other capitals, "without that meaning that he personally would move" to these capitals. The objective is to make direct contacts with opposition forces and figures and to spare the Jordanian Government any troubles it might experience as a result of the objection of some Jordanian political forces loyal to the Iraqi regime to the idea of Gen. Kamil conducting political activities from Jordan. The sources pointed out that some of Gen. Amil's aides could change their residence and move to Arab and foreign capitals to arrange contacts and relations for him with the Iraqi opposition and Arab and foreign governments.

Minister on Aftereffects of Hasan's Brain Surgery

JN2208154895 Amman AL-DUSTER in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 27

[Report by Ahmad al-Shuruf]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad—Iraqi Health Minister Midhat Mubarak has stated that health conditions in Iraq have deteriorated remarkably since the beginning of the international blockade against Iraq in 1990.

During a meeting yesterday with a Jordanian press delegation visiting Iraq, the Iraqi minister reviewed the deteriorating health situation and medical care in Iraq, and said that the medical services provided by the state have dropped from about 30,000 beds to less than 40 percent of this figure. He attributed this drop to the inability to acquire the required medical equipment, medicine, and spare parts.

The Health Ministry's annual budget has also dropped from $500 million before the blockade to $17 million in 1995. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi health minister then spoke about the health condition of Husayn Kamil Hasan, who recently defected to Jordan. Kamil, he said, underwent a surgical operation at the King Husayn Medical Center three months ago to remove a benign tumor.

Dr. Mubarak said that Husayn Kamil Hasan's tumor was located rather deep inside the front of the head, above the eyebrow. This tumor, he said, usually causes a state of nervousness that affects the patient's personal and social behavior, and sometimes may even lead to epilepsy.

He said that the Iraqi doctors discovered this tumor after Hasan had a strong epileptic fit, which necessitated moving him to Amman where he underwent surgery by a British surgeon.

He added that doctors affirm that those afflicted with tumors often continue to suffer negative effects even after receiving treatment.

Dr. Midhat Mubarak said that as a doctor and former fellow cabinet member, he noticed that Hasan tended to be irritable and nervous without any reason on many occasions, even during normal debates during which there was no reason for nervousness.

The Iraqi health minister did not deny that Husayn Kamil Hasan may have the psychological predisposition for megalomania as a result of the responsibilities he shouldered and the high-ranking positions he occupied. However, he stressed that the brain tumor from which Hasan had suffered had a great effect in his exacerbating self-deceit and egotism.

Opposition Notes Measures Against Army Officers

JN2208164295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saddamist regime has continued its arbitrary measures within the army officers ranks, restricting their movement more than ever before, now that the regime feels it is on the verge of collapse.

Our sources in Baghdad say that Major General Raghib Fakhri has been arrested recently by the Saddamist secret service in his house in the Zayyunah area of Baghdad. He was taken to an unknown destination. The sources said that the general's car was also confiscated during the arrest operation.

The regime's moves are intended to create fear in the hearts of senior officers to prevent them from trying to end the regime's oppression of the Muslim Iraqi people.

Rashid on Documents Given to Ekeus, Defector

JN2208150295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 24

[Report by Ramadan al-Rawashidah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq on Monday revealed that it handed to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons, new pieces of information and important documents related to the programs of biological and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as the uranium enrichment and nuclear armament program which Iraq started after August 1990. Ekeus did not reveal anything of this information in his news conference which he held on Sunday.

Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Iraqi oil minister and acting head of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], said Ekeus did not reveal anything about these pieces of information and documents because Iraq briefed him on them after his news conference and only two hours before he left Iraq.

In an exclusive interview with the Jordanian press delegation, currently visiting Baghdad, held at his office in the Oil Ministry, Rashid said these documents and pieces of information were found at a farm owned by General Husayn Kamil, who recently defected to Jordan, in al-Suwayrah, a suburb in the eastern region some 50 km from Baghdad. He said Ekeus went to the farm to collect the documents.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, who since 1991 has been responsible for the file of cooperation with the UN commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons, added that he is convinced that Ekeus' report to the UN Security Council will be positive since Ekeus was clearly impressed by the new information and documents.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said Gen. Husayn Kamil will reveal to Ekeus and Zifferero, deputy director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, false and deceptive information with the aim of prolonging the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, although we have definitely deprived him of all his information weapons.

Rashid did not deny or confirm that Husayn Kamil has in his possession documents on this subject. He, however, stressed that Husayn Kamil knows a great deal about the moves of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He added: Despite that, Iraq always knows how to deal with emergencies and developments; otherwise it would not have been able to hold out in a war against superpowers.

Asked about the Iraqi-Jordanian relations, Lt. Gen. Rashid stressed that these relations will remain good and special and that Husayn Kamil's incident cannot have any effect on these ties. He said: We will work on developing joint cooperation between the two countries and any attempt to distort these relations will fail.

Reacting to the statements made by His Majesty King Husayn to the Jordanian journalists following his meeting with the Council of Ministers on Saturday — in which he said that Iraq is our depth and we are its lifeline, and our doors will always be open for it — Lt. Gen. Rashid said: His Majesty King Husayn's position was expected and clear.

Lt. Gen. Rashid accused Gen. Husayn Kamil of stealing approximately $8.7 million of the MIO's funds.

In a meeting with the Jordanian press delegation on Saturday, the Iraqi information minister said that the funds which Husayn Kamil stole from the MIO and the money he bought from the market amount to $35 million. The U.S. TIME magazine said in its recent issue that Husayn Kamil took out with him approximately $50 million.

Lt. Gen Rashid said: I have worked with Husayn Kamil for seven years. He used to give orders to the MIO directors asking them to conceal information on the biological, chemical, and nuclear programs from the UN Special Commission. He used to tell them that he speaks on behalf of President Saddam Husayn. He also sent for certain people in the MIO asking them for classified information they know about old and recent armament programs and facilities concerned with manufacturing and construction.

In a related development, the Jordanian press delegation met with some directors of the MIO and the state enterprises affiliated with it.

Major General Muzahim 'Abd-al-Raziq, director general of coordination and follow-up at the MIO, accused Husayn Kamil of demanding the implementation of certain projects that do not serve Iraq at the time of the embargo, such as the building of a tunnel under the Tigris.

Nizar Jasim, director general of the Economic Department at the Ministry of Trade, said that Husayn Kamil asked him to move the funds he has in his quarters of the MIO, which were allocated to trade deals between Iraq and other states, to other areas in al- Karkh and al-Rasafah. He also chose certain student training centers to deposit these funds because he thought they would be safe areas in case of any emergency.

Brigadier General Nuri Tayih, director general of the MIO Legal Department, said the Iraqi people who pushed Husayn Kamil to leading positions do not deserve what he has done to them. The funds he took with him were the people's.

Ahmad Isma'il Majid and 'Ala' Salman, directors general of al-Fao and al-Jihad enterprises, both are affiliated with the MIO, said they used to execute the orders of Husayn Kamil since they considered them orders from President Saddam Husayn.

Decision To Cooperate With UN Commission Viewed

JN2308101895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper stressed that the important national decision taken by the leadership on 21 August to continue cooperation with the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency with complete openness confirms the leadership's interest in closing any loophole in the files particularly those caused by the sick, mean minds, which were used by the enemies to serve their evil intentions.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The leadership is keen on preserving the freedom, dignity, and sovereignty of the Iraqi citizen on the entire national soil. It is also keen on securing the basic, daily needs of that citizen and his family. The enemies are exerting pressure to obstruct the state from securing these needs.

The paper says: The leadership's decision confirms that Iraq is determined to deprive the Zionists, the imperialists, and their lackeys the various excuses and possible fabrications to make the UN Security Council fulfill, as soon as possible, its legal commitments toward Iraq and fully implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without any restrictions or additional conditions.

The paper says U.S. propaganda, political, and military escalation is no more than a failed wager on illusions, promoted by the agents, which reveal the evil intentions of the U.S. Administration against Iraq. It stresses that the Iraqi citizens, who were not shaken by the fives years of the embargo or the hundreds of tons of the aggressors' bombs, view with contempt the U.S. Administration's threats which claim that Iraq is massing its troops against fraternal Jordan. This claim was refuted by the Jordanian Government before anybody else.

The paper says the U.S. Administration and its allies should reconsider their positions and deal with the facts and realities that cannot be distorted or ignored. The first of these facts is that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations in accordance with the unfair UN Security Council resolutions and wants to close all the files, and that the UN Security Council should respect, and immediately start to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 on lifting, once and for all, the embargo that has been imposed on the Iraqi people for more than five years.

The paper stresses that the Iraqi people confirmed to the entire world that no force on earth can deprive them of their free will, sovereignty, and respect for their national and pan-Arab identity. They also confirmed that any new attempt by Washington in the opposite direction will only be a flimsy expression of the futile attempts to provoke and terrorize Iraq.

'Heir' to Iraqi Throne Wants Monarchy Restored

*NC2208173795 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish
19 Aug 95 p 16*

[Interview with al-Sharif 'Ali, "heir to the Iraqi throne," by Feramiz Gokdemir in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gokdemir] Why have you come onto the political stage now? Do you think there will be new developments in Iraq?

[Al-Sharif] I have acted upon urgent requests from within Iraq and abroad for the restoration of the constitutional monarchy. My aim is to bring together all the Iraqi political parties and groups to prevent the country from falling into the situation of Afghanistan or Yugoslavia once the Saddam regime collapses.

[Gokdemir] Do you think conditions have matured in Iraq for the return of monarchy?

[Al-Sharif] My primary condition is that only the legitimate monarchy be established and only by the Iraqi people's will in a free referendum. The Iraqi Kurdish groups also favor the idea of a monarchy, provided that the Iraqi people accept it. We have no serious ideological antagonism with the Islamic groups.

[Gokdemir] Do you believe that Saddam, and hence the Ba'th administration, will collapse in the near future?

[Al-Sharif] The regime is now very week due to the economic sanctions and heavy political pressure on the population from the administration. However, a classic military coup will not succeed because the regime has been preparing itself to counter such a move for the last 25 years. There can also be no question of interference from abroad because the Iraqi people and the regional and world powers will oppose it. Nor can we set up a national liberation force able to fight the existing Iraqi Army. However, an initiative to undermine the regime could be launched if all these factors coalesce. In that case, pressure from the Iraqi people at home and abroad and from the influential political groups, a simultaneous popular uprising, and a mutiny by a group in the Army could arise. However, the most important thing before the collapse of the regime is to clarify what to replace it with and what to do during the transition period.

[Gokdemir] Are you making any contacts about the transitional period or the transitional administration?

[Al-Sharif] At present we take a positive view and are in contact with people who have been forced to cooperate with the Iraqi administration. For now, we are establishing contacts with the neighboring countries only as a matter of protocol.

[Gokdemir] What system do you aspire to in case the monarchy is accepted?

[Al-Sharif] We are thinking of an umbrella that will embrace and unite all the opposition forces without creating rivalries. We want the king to assume only a symbolic role in a limited monarchy, while investing executive authority in a freely elected parliament and government. The king is to be a mere protector of the Constitution and to play a conciliatory role between the political groups. We are open to everybody, from the communists to former Ba'th Party officers to the Islamic section.

[Gokdemir] How do you view Turkish-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Sharif] Relations between Iraq and Turkey were very good for years. However, relations deteriorated with the coming to power of this regime, which has taken an aggressive stance against its neighbors. An unstable Iraq means an unstable regime. We hope that Turkey will continue using its influence to help with the stabilization and the democratic process in Iraq. Democratization in Turkey has been a great source of encouragement and courage for many regional countries, primarily for Iraq. We expect Turkey to back forces that believe in and support democracy in Iraq.

[Gokdemir] A not insignificant number of Turkmens live in Iraq. What will your approach to them be?

[Al-Sharif] The Turkmens have always played an important role in Iraqi society. Important Turkmen personalities are found in our history and society. There are various nationalities, ethnic and religious groups, and people speaking various languages in Iraq. We believe that every nation has the right to protect its cultural identity and that they should not be assimilated by another culture.

[Gokdemir] When you come to power will you allow the establishment of a separate state or autonomous region in northern Iraq?

[Al-Sharif] The Iraqi Kurdish leaders have often expressed their desire to remain within the Iraqi state. As for the issue of federalism, the Iraqi people should decided whether Iraq should remain a unitary state or a federation.

Western Media Accused of Fabricating Stories

*JN2208190795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1825 GMT 22 Aug 95*

["Western media/lies: Prepared by the Press Reports Section" — INA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA) — Over the past few days, the Western media machine, along with agent trumpets in the region, has been carried away, in a very strange manner, by illusions of its own making. This machine thought that by employing its huge material and technical resources it could easily deceive public opinion.

These media agencies tried to capitalize on the treason of those who sold out to make a big hue and cry and fabricate imaginary stories about imaginary incidents in Iraq that exist only in the heads of their authors.

We still remember the story fabricated a few months ago by some Western media organs about imaginary acts of rioting which reportedly took place in the Abu Ghurayb region in a Baghdad suburb. These media agencies could not do anything when the Iraqi media cleverly countered these lies by producing strong evidence. It was not difficult to silence those tendentious fabrications. Western reporters assumed the mission. They visited the region and sent reports after having a first-hand experience and meeting citizens who laughed a lot when they heard that fabricated story. The Abu Ghurayb incident shows how the Western media were blindly carried away by a false report sent by a reporter who was more than 1,000 km away from the scene of the alleged incidents.

The Western media did not learn a lesson from that incident and let themselves fall into more than one media trap in a very ignorant way by their blind search for any rumor from any source without making an effort to search for the truth and without resorting to reason, logic, and objectivity through taking obtaining the news from its real and official sources away from clamor and cheap propaganda.

Among these media traps was the fabricated story on the death of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, adviser at the Presidential Office, and his son Ahmad. They were disappointed when this Iraqi official appeared on Baghdad television screens last Sunday to refute these lies and emphasize that he is in good health, and that what happened was that he simply fractured his leg in an accident, that he is recovering and his recovery will not take more than a week.

The Iraqi official denied that his son Ahmad has been harmed for the simple reason that he was not present when his father fractured his leg.

He ridiculed the clamor made by the Western mass media and urged them to stop following such cheap means, which vainly aim to undermine Iraq's reputation.

On his part, Hashim Hasan al-Majid dealt another blow to the Western media when he refuted, in an interview with Baghdad television on the same night, the allegations reported by MBC network [Middle East Broadcasting Corporation] quoting the Iranian News Agency which claimed that he fled Baghdad with a group of ranking Republican Guards officers to Mosul.

Al-Majid said the network reporting of such lies is evidence of political and media bankruptcy.

Will the Western media organs stop fabricating such cheap lies after these traps they fell into and the blows they faced by the Iraq media? After all that happened, can the Western media claim that they are eager to maintain credibility and objectivity? The answers to these questions are known by everybody.

Commentary on 'Heroic' Jerusalem Operation

JN2208201295 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's heroic Jerusalem operation has many meanings. By observing reactions from Washington and the capitals and sides that are involved in the negotiations and agreements with the Zionist entity, one can conclude that the Western colonialist nations take this opportunity, as usual, to reverse facts. They portray the victim as a killer and the killer as a victim. Is there anything in international norms, charters, and laws that prevents a people from struggling against those who occupy their territory? Why does the extremely civilized West refrain from stopping the ceaseless Zionist crimes? This same West quickly accuses our Arab people of being uncivilized and savage.

This West always tries to level accusations at the pan-Arab reawakening movement. The West always talks about human rights and the need for one to live in freedom in his country. However, when this West is confronted with the struggle of peoples that seek freedom from foreign occupation or from the foreigner's plundering of their resources, the West finds only adjectives which fit its actions and forbidden fruit — which it has spread all over the countries that it calls the Third World — to attach to the liberation movements and the struggle of peoples for freedom and justice.

When our Palestinian people have the honor to resist the Zionist occupiers, they tangibly prove that peace will not be true peace if it is unjust, and that the results of emergency circumstances should be removed along with the removal of the circumstances themselves. The deviation of the movement of history, at a certain stage, from its true course does not mean that this deviation will continue. In fact, it means that balances have been disrupted and that they must return to normal. In order to return to normal, the binding condition regarding this return lies in the peoples' confrontation of the usurpers of their rights, those who try to reverse facts, and those who insist on using double standards.

The heroic operation in Jerusalem is a warning to the one who believes that the Arab people of Palestine would accept an alternative to freedom and liberation. It is also a warning to the one who imagines that the heroic pan-Arab action was paralyzed in the wake of the 30-state aggression against Iraq. What the Americans and those who cooperate with them are trying to impose on the Arabs, in exploitation of the circumstances, will not only be shaken, but will also collapse, for our people in Palestine are an example, and our revolution and people in Iraq are an example and proof to everyone who wants us to show him the example.

Perhaps, the fierceness of the current onslaught against the Arab nation does not show the strength of enemies inasmuch as it expresses the nation's strength and the enemies' awareness of this nation's ability to overcome its circumstances, to resist, and to achieve victories in a way which foils the objectives and intentions of the evil enemies and their pillars.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session; Jordan Discussed

JN1908154295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has presided over the 32d session of the Council of Ministers. The council discussed the topics listed on its agenda, including approving the regulations and bases of the investment plan and current expenditures for 1996. Discussions also dealt with the recent statements made by the United States and other tendentious quarters on Iraq's relations with Jordan.

A spokesman authorized by the meeting made the following statement: Iraq's relationship with Jordan is decades long. In addition to its pan-Arab values, it has resulted, since 1974, in joint cooperation that, since 1978, has increased steadily in vast areas and in various fields, including the economic field, as known by Jordanians and Iraqis. As far as Iraq is concerned, it remains concerned about this relationship and wishes to promote it in all fields. Iraq has proved that it does not view this relationship in light of transient circumstances or urgent needs in accordance with technical or momentary interests. Rather, it is based on the great values in which Iraq believes, the pan-Arab and brotherly relations, and on the long-term comprehensive relations that cannot be broken by any momentary considerations. Therefore, talk about Iraqi concentrations directed toward Jordan or the possibilities of reducing economic relations or cooperation in the field of oil and energy by Iraq is nonsense and no such thing is within the intentions of the Iraq people and state organs. Jordan's cooperation with any of the fraternal Arab countries will not dilute Iraq's enthusiasm toward its economic relations with Jordan, which will benefit the overall interests of both the Jordanian and Iraqi people.

Saddam Gets Cable From Jordanian Popular Forces

JN1808140595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—The popular forces for the support of Iraq in the Jordanian city of al-Salt have stressed that the firm determination of the steadfast Iraqi people and its brave leader President Saddam Husayn will definitely keep great Iraq a lofty rock against which all the enemy arrows and spears will founder.

A cable received by President Saddam Husayn reiterates the constant pledge and allegiance for his excellency so that victorious Iraq would remain a symbol and a minaret by which the Arabs would be guided in confronting the plots being concocted against their nation.

Saddam Receives Cable From Jordanian Organization

JN1808120095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — The Popular Committee for the Support of Iraq and the Resistance to Aggression in al-'Aqabah Governorate in Jordan has hailed the genuine pan-Arab positions of Iraq's leadership and people in defense of the Arab nation's honor and pan-Arab security.

In a cable received by President Saddam Husayn, the committee expressed its belief in Iraq's inevitable victory over its enemies and its progress and prosperity, with God's assistance.

Opposition Sees No 'Direct Threat' to Saddam

AU2108124195 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 17 Aug 95 p 3

[Interview with Kanan Makiya, author and co-founder of the opposition "Iraqi National Congress," by Thomas

Dreger; place and date not given— "Rotting of the Iraqi Regime is Progressing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dreger] Mr. Makiya, when do you think Saddam Husayn will be brought down?

[Makiya] Nobody can predict the future. But this is certainly the last round of the game. The last stage of rotting has begun. There have been reports of big massacres in Baghdad recently. It seems that Saddam's oldest son Udayy has killed Saddam's half brother Watban al-Takriti, his wife, and several other people. Half a dozen people are said to have been killed during the last three days alone. It seems that the flight of Husayn Kamel Hasan al-Majid has triggered disputes that are now being settled by force.

[Dreger] Does that mean that Husayn Kamel's flight has got Saddam into serious trouble?

[Makiya] The circle that is closing around him is getting tighter. He is losing the support of people whom he had trusted for a very long time. But that does not necessarily mean that he is under direct threat — for instance from sections of the army or the palace guards. There is certainly a lot of confusion in Baghdad. The people around Saddam Husayn are concerned about their alliances. But I do not think that Husayn Kamel's flight must necessarily mean an immediate threat to Saddam Husayn. But it shows that the rotting of the regime is progressing and that we should think about what comes after Saddam Husayn. Husayn Kamel's attempt to present himself as a kind of opposition leader has made this necessary.

[Dreger] Husayn Kamel was one of the major pillars of the regime. Now he wants to establish contact with the opposition.

[Makiya] If I had to name 20 or 30 people who can be held personally responsible for the crimes of the Iraqi regime, Husayn Kamel would be in fourth or fifth place on the list. We are not talking about someone who was responsible for something as a minister. We are talking about someone who personally commanded the tanks that crushed the Shi'ite revolts in An Najaf and Kerbala after the war in Kuwait. The tanks that drove to Kerbala were painted with the phrase "There will be no Shi'ites from today!" He is responsible for the draining of the swamps in southern Iraq, and thus for the destruction of the swamp Arabs who lived there. After his defection, Husayn Kamel did not utter a single word of regret with regard to these incidents. On the contrary: He says that all this was necessary.

He allegedly has access to huge amounts of money. Iraqi bankers say that he has $400 million. With this money he hopes to establish his own opposition. I think we should call him to account and demand that he not use the money for his own purposes. We should bring him before an international court.

[Dreger] Is there consensus on that among the Iraqi opposition?

[Makiya] There have been lively discussions on that issue within the "Iraqi National Congress." Some people say: We have to cooperate with Husayn Kamel. But my view is: He has left Iraq because he was not able to do anything in the country. That is why he will not be able to do anything from outside either. You can make him a symbol of the Iraqi opposition, but I think that would be very wrong politically. Husayn Kamel is not the future. There are certainly people who want to have a person like him to safeguard Iraq's stability. But that is very short-term thinking.

[Dreger] There have been reports that the CIA has organized the defection of a number of high-ranking Iraqi military and political leaders. Are such reports realistic?

[Makiya] I do not think that the CIA has the necessary contacts to organize something like that. It does not have its fingers inside the regime. Husayn Kamel's flight was mainly organized by Saudi Arabia and Jordan. I have heard allegations that the U.S. Administration is still not sure how to handle this.

[Dreger] What do you expect Western governments to do if Saddam Husayn is deposed in the near future?

[Makiya] That depends on how he is brought down and who replaces him. If it is Husayn Kamel, I hope they will keep their distance. But I do not think that it will happen during the next few weeks.

Allied Planes Said To Drop Flares Over Ninawah

JN2208105895 Baghdad INA in English
0930 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 22, INA—The U.S.-led coalition warplanes dropped on the 17th of this month four flares to the north of Tall 'Afar/Ninawah Province.

Meanwhile, the hostile aircraft dropped another five flares on the same day to the north of Tall 'Afar.

An official source said that the nine flares died down causing no damage or causalities.

U.S. Activities in Territorial Waters Protested to UN

JN2208073295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 21 Aug (INA)—Iraq today protested to the United Nations against violations of Iraqi territorial waters by U.S. and British aircraft and patrols which carried out reconnaissance missions in the area between al-Bakr port, al-'Amiq port, Shatt al-'Arab, and Khawr 'Abdallah.

In a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that on 7 August a patrol flying the U.S. flag entered our territorial waters and carried out reconnaissance missions in the area between the al-Bakr port, al- 'Amiq port, Shatt al-'Arab, and Khawr 'Abdallah.

The message explained that on 8 August 1995 a U.S. patrol landed a rubber boat with three frogmen on board, who carried out reconnaissance missions in the area. At the same time, two U.S. Navy helicopters were spotted in the area.

The message also pointed out that on 9 August 1995 a cruiser flying the British flag and carrying the figure 060 arrived in the area between the al-Bakr port and al-'Amiq port and carried out reconnaissance missions.

In his message, Iraq's permanent UN representative asserted that these violations of our territorial waters confirm that the U.S. and UK governments continue to carry out provocative acts against Iraq and insist on violating Iraq's sovereignty to fabricate pretexts and justifications for their aggressive interests.

Iraq's permanent representative requested that the UN secretary general distribute this message as a UN document.

'Udayy Reportedly Restricts Aircraft Fuel Supply

NC1808152095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Udayy, Saddam Husayn's son, has issued orders restricting the amount of fuel allocated to aircraft. Sources said [words indistinct] that this order came as a result of fears regarding the escape of [word indistinct] airplanes on board which might be some high-ranking officials, even if the ranking official on board the plane is Saddam himself.

At the same time, the sources rule out that 'Udayy will turn against his father. They said that the way is open to 'Udayy since the defection of Saddam's sons-in-law and the death of Watban.

'Udayy Reviews Air Show of Restored Aircraft

JN1808143095 Baghdad AL-TAHWRAH in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God and with the blessing of struggler President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, the second "call of the leader" campaign concluded its air effort, which began on 8 May 1995, with a splendid air show which was attended by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, supervisor of "call of the leader" campaigns.

The air effort in this campaign consisted of repairing aircraft and their support ammunitions, weapons, and equipment, which were repaired, reconstructed, and restored to service, and also adding armament capabilities to some of them. All this was done in record time by officers, engineers, and men of the Air Force, the Army Aviation, and the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]. They depended on their own personal efforts without the assistance of any foreign expertise, whether in technical work, the production of spare parts, or technical modifications. Thus, by this real technical and logistical miracle, they embodied the saying of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, that "where there is a will, the Iraqi people can achieve the impossible; anything, other than what falls within the powers of God Almighty."

As soon as 'Udayy Saddam Husayn arrived at the air show grounds, the band played the national anthem. The show began immediately afterward with a recitation from the Holy Koran and the reading of the first sura for the repose of the souls of our righteous martyrs. The staff major general in charge of the second "call of the leader" campaign delivered a speech in which he reviewed the special efforts of the officers, engineers, and technicians of the Air Force, the Army Aviation, and MIO to conclude the campaign in a record time of less than three months. The staff major general pledged to the leader, may God preserve and protect him, that these men will continue their efforts and sacrifices. He announced that this unique accomplishment is their gift to his excellency the president coupled with their sincere pledge that they remain faithful and loyal to the leader struggler on the course of victory and dignity until the final crossing is achieved.

Later, the staff colonel in charge of the air show and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, riding an open car which was preceded by a detachment of security guards on motorbikes, inspected the restored fighter aircraft and helicopters on the airport tarmac. Fighter aircraft flying at a low altitude flew over the main stand in salute and then shot up into the sky with pride on their way back to their bases. They included impressive formations of

Mig-23, Mig-21, Mig-29, Mirages, Sukhoi-25, training aircraft-291, PC-6, PC-7, and PC-9 aircraft, and the light trainer "Bravo." This was followed by the take-off of different types of helicopters: Hughes-500, Alouette-3, Hughes-300, BK-117, food security aircraft MI-2, ST aircraft, MI-25, MI-17, MI-8, and MI-6, which is one of the largest helicopters in the world.

It is noteworthy that all these aircraft were repaired, inspected, and flown with full success, after they had been out of order for several years, either for technical reasons due to lack of spare parts and replacements or the expiry of their life-time, or due to the damage they sustained during the 30-state aggression on Iraq. The helicopters, which were restored in the campaign also flew past in combat formations and successive waves in front of the salute stand, filling the sky with their roar.

The commander of the aircraft repair workshop presented a token gift to the supervisor of "call of the leader" campaigns consisting of small replicas of the fighter aircraft and helicopters which were repaired and restored to service in the second "call of the leader" campaign.

Housing Minister Meets French Businessman

JN2008201395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1330 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad has met with Oliver Crise, chairman of the Board of Directors of the French company Dirkoment [name and title as received], which is specialized in hydrological technology.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the great efforts made by Iraqi engineers and technicians in the reconstruction drive and the outstanding accomplishments they have made, which epitomizes the Iraqis' creativity and innovation as well as their ability to do the impossible.

For his part, Crise expressed his admiration and appreciation of the great efforts the Iraqis have made to repair the immense damage to roads, bridges, and installations in Iraq.

Crise asserted that his company, which is one of the biggest world companies specialized in hydrological technologies, particularly with regard to drinking water and heavy industrial water, is ready to resume its work in Iraq, which began 30 years ago.

The French figure said that his company seeks to cooperate with the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction in the implementation of civilian projects in Iraq. He noted that his company will seek to benefit from the local resources and capabilities in this regard.

The meeting was attended by the two under secretaries of the ministry.

Journalists Union Urges Releasing Frozen Assets

JN2108191395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—We have received from Sulayman al-Qudah, doyen of the Jordanian journalists, a copy of a memorandum sent by Taha al-Basri, first deputy doyen of the Iraqi journalists, on the Iraqi frozen assets. Following is the text of the memorandum:

Attached herewith is a schedule of the Iraq's frozen assets which are held by some Arab governments. They amount to approximately $1.302 billion as of 30 June 1995. Releasing these assets will effectively contribute to the provision of food, medicine, and baby milk for the Iraqi people who are still burdened with the unjust blockade which has been imposed for more than five years.

Releasing these assets will also contribute to covering the state-run comprehensive campaign of faith for students studying the holy Koran as well as enhancing religious awareness among Iraqi school students in all grades.

While addressing you, we hope that you will not spare any effort, through your press and media activities as well as your cultural, political, and popular seminars, to convey your voice to the concerned governments in order to release these held assets and ease the suffering of 20 million Iraqis.

Ramadan Receives Pro-Government Kurdish Party Group

JN2008184395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1250 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received members of the new Central Committee of the [pro-Iraq] Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] elected during the KDP's 12th congress.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan relayed to the KDP Central Committee members the congratulations of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the trust placed in them by KDP members. He also noted the interest His Excellency President Saddam Husayn takes in the affairs of the Kurdish people in Kurdistan, as well as the gains and accomplishments the revolution has made on all levels and in all walks of life.

The vice president commended the democratic climate that permeated the work of the congress and the free elections held. He asserted that the phase being experienced by Iraq is the phase of crossing which will get us to safe shores and lead to victories through the efforts of all Iraqis, be they Arabs, Kurds, or other ethnic groups and their rallying behind the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

On behalf of the KDP Central Committee and KDP members, KDP Secretary General Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi renewed the pledge of allegiance to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He added that KDP members will continue the struggle to build a unified Iraq in terms of territory and people and regain control of Iraqi Kurdistan under the great tent of Iraq, the tent of victory, peace, and national unity.

Paper Reports on Plan To Regain Kurdistan

JN2008142095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic on 18 August publishes on pages 15-17 an approximately 3,000-word report by Na'il Mukhaybar in Nicosia on an Iraqi plan to regain Kurdistan in cooperation with Turkey and Iran. The report is based on a "Western security report part of which was made available to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI."

The "security report" says that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn did not stop thinking about re-imposing Iraqi sovereignty over Kurdistan since it became under international protection after the war to liberate Kuwait in 1991. The report says that Iraqi troops conducted exercises, in which helicopters were used, to storm fortified mountain positions. The military preparations, the report adds, were not accompanied by any significant political activity until May 1994, when European quarters began to monitor meetings held in various places between Iraqi individuals on the one hand, and Turkish and Iranian officials on the other. The Europeans soon learned that the purpose of these meetings was to feel the Turkish and Iranian reactions to any attempt by Baghdad to regain its control on the north.

The report further adds that the Turkish-Iraqi meetings began when the two countries began technical talks to drain the Turkish pipeline. Early this year, security officials from Iraq and Turkey held a meeting, which the western monitoring agencies were able to listen to, to discuss the possibility of an Iraqi invasion of Kurdistan. Iraqi officials held similar meetings with Iranian counterparts. As a result of these two meetings, the report adds, Saddam Husayn held a meeting — attended only by Saddam Husayn's two sons, the chief of the intelligence service, the Army commander, and 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, a former defense minister and Saddam Husayn's adviser — to discuss alternatives.

The report adds that a meeting was later arranged in Vienna between Barzan al-Takriti, Iraq's envoy to the UN headquarters in Geneva, and a high-level Turkish security official, to discuss Iraqi plans to invade northern Iraq. The report says that weeks after the Vienna meeting, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn made a secret visit to Tehran at the invitation of his "friend and main trade partner" the son of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The report adds that 'Udayy proposed to Rafsanjani's son and the other Iranian officials the idea of restoring Iraqi sovereignty over Kurdistan for several reasons, "the most tempting of which, as far as Rafsanjani's son is concerned, was to strengthen trade between Iraq and Iran" which, according to the report, is controlled by 'Udayy and Rafsanjani's son.

The report adds that a three-way Iraqi-Turkish-Iranian meeting was held in a secret place in Ankara. In that meeting, the conferees agreed that the Iraqi offensive must start before the next snow season and must be swift and lightening and result in the least possible losses among the civilian Kurds. It was also agreed that Turkey and Iran will prevent the Kurds from using their territory, cut their supply routes, and persuade the western states of the advantages of the Iraqi operation.

The report adds that Baghdad started to pave the way to ensure the success of such an operation by showing goodwill to the UN Special Commission and handing it a 500-page report on Iraq's weapons program, by intensifying its moves to restore Arab solidarity, by distancing itself from the Sudanese regime, and by replacing Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who is specialized in oppressive operations, by a professional army man.

Top Jordanian Officials on Trade Ties

JN1808112695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1050 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 18 Aug (INA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday reassured Jordanian businessmen that Jordan will not consider severing its economic ties with Iraq and that improving its Gulf ties will not take place at the expense of Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday reported that the U.S. Administration is seeking to persuade Jordan to sever its economic ties with Baghdad.

On his talks in Saudi Arabia, al-Kabariti said Amman and Riyadh see eye to eye on the need to preserve Iraq's unity and sovereignty and the need for this country to reassume its role in the Arab arena.

Prominent Jordanian businessmen said that severing economic ties with Iraq would deal a severe blow to Jordan's economy and that the loss could not be compensated by opening new outlets in the Gulf and the occupied region.

Wasif 'Azar, manager of the Jordanian Business Bank, said: We will not benefit from the Israeli economy because Iraq is our strategic depth and the Jordanian economy depends on the Iraqi market.

Samih Darwazah, Jordan's minister of energy and mineral resources, said Jordan cannot make do without Iraqi oil because Jordan receives Iraqi oil at cheap prices. Jordan receives around 60,000-70,000 barrels per day on soft conditions.

Jordanian businessmen say Jordan's economic base will be paralyzed. The same applies for transit trade from the port of al- 'Aqabah to Iraq.

Industrialists in Jordan say trade with Iraq totals $1 billion annually, including reexport trade, which totals around $500 million. This cannot be compensated by optimistic prospects for trade with the Israeli economy, which is expected to total a maximum of $100-150 million in the coming years.

As for Jordan's trade with Saudi Arabia, it is very small compared to trade with Iraq. Jordanian exports to Saudi Arabia totaled $37 million in the first half of this year, most of which are agricultural products. Saudi exports to Jordan for the same period totaled $65 million. Iraqi exports to Jordan totaled $214 million in the first half of 1995, while Jordanian exports to Iraq totaled $500 million for the same period.

Paper Says U.S. 'Extorting' Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

JN2008073895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0614 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi paper has criticized the U.S. Administration's misleading policy and [word indistinct] attempts to create an image of an "enemy" and to allude that this "permanent enemy" [words indistinct] Iraq at a time when the world is heading toward establishing balanced relations with it and recognizing its cooperation with the Special Commission and its fulfillment of its commitments toward UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, says in an article today that it has become evident that the United States is persisting in [words indistinct] against Iraq to maintain the blockade after signs of having it lifted began to appear in the offing in view of the international community's recognition of Iraq's cooperation with the UN Security Council [words indistinct].

The paper stresses that the recent U.S. [words indistinct] moves [words indistinct] fabricated by Washington under flimsy and (?misleading) pretexts expose the U.S. Administration's [word indistinct]. It says that the U.S. Administration is now waging a new [words indistinct] the aim of which is to reshuffle the cards and to exercise a policy of terrorism and extortion.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration is trying to delude the international community into believing that Iraq is pursuing an aggressive policy to serve its goals of extorting the al-Sabah regime in Kuwait and the Al Sa'ud regime in Saudi Arabia and to plunder more of the Arab people's wealth to resolve the [word indistinct] and current insoluble U.S. economic problems.

The paper refers to statements by some (?Middle Eastern) diplomats and senior U.S. Administration officials exaggerating the (?military) movements in Iraq and noting that sending U.S. troops to defend the Gulf against Iraq is a chance for President Clinton [words indistinct].

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Iraqis are always ready to defend their country against any threat from any source and that they are capable of defending their national security and high edifice under all circumstances.

The paper concludes its article by stressing that through its hostile, misleading policies, the United States will only be able to intimidate and extort its allies. But as far as the honorable Arabs are concerned, they only view with anger and disdain the [words indistinct] policies, which only deepen the rift in the already shaky Arab-U.S. relations.

Paper Says U.S. Using Food as Weapon Against Iraq

JN1908100395 Baghdad INA in English
0810 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 19, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad has asserted that the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq since more than five years now is nothing but an expression for the American strategies in using food as a weapon with a view to press other states to change their attitudes.

In its today article titled "The American Foreign Nutrition Aid Is an Economic Tool at Serve of the Imperialist Goals" it said that the American economic activity abroad is part of the American foreign policy channeled to realise American interests through foreign aid which turned most of the time to be an economic instrument in its hand to achieve certain political goals.

The U.S. is the first which used food regularly as a weapon in the international relations in a way pre-cooked where Washington metes out the surplus of its food not on humanitarian bases but according to other considerations the American foreign policy entails, it added.

More than half of the nutritional aid offered by the U.S. in 1991 was allocated for five countries of strategic importance, which are Israel, Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines and the [El] Salvador, it mentioned.

Food aid submitted to the developing countries in 90-91 represent only 1.2 percent of the U.S. production of grains and valued 8.6 of its imports from grains which is a very mini quantity comparing to other quantities being rendered by such rich states of grains to the poor peoples, the daily referred.

The paper referred to the former American president Henry Ford's [as received] statement that the American arsenal includes weapons proved high profile, "it is food" he clarified, while Carter bragged with food in its election campaign.

It concluded by saying that the official and non-official American viewpoints concerning international food relief stem from its strategies that serve its interests and realise political goals in addition to other economic and social benefits.

'Renegade' Prisoners Released, Pardoned

JN1808142295 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, INA—It has been decided to release the renegade Prisoners of war [al-asra al-murtadin] who have surrendered themselves and to pardon those who will surrender themselves in the future.

This has come in a circular issued by the presidential Office. The circular said it has been decided to release the renegade prisoners of war who surrendered themselves and who are currently detained by the security organs in the country, and to pardon the renegade prisoners who will surrender themselves to our units, party, administrative, and security organs in the future.

Paper Outlines Mother of Battles Radio's Aims

JN1808145295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Urjuwan Hashim 'Ali]

[FBIS Translated Text] "This is Mother of Battles Radio from Baghdad. In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, and with the blessings of God, Mother of Battles Radio begins its transmission from Baghdad; Baghdad of al-Mansur and al-Rashid; Baghdad of the July Revolution; Baghdad of Saddam Husayn; Baghdad, the proud city; your Baghdad, O Arabs."

With this introduction, a new voice echoed yesterday on the anniversary of the immortal 2 August 1990 to carry Baghdad's love, confidence, and splendor to the masses of the Arab nation everywhere.

The Mother of Battles Radio, the new pan-Arab radio, began transmitting yesterday as the voice of the great historic battle, through which the enemies wanted to deprive us of any voice.

AL-QADISIYAH attended the opening of this young radio, toured its various studios and sections, and joined comrades Dr. Ilyas Farah, Dr. Qasim Salam, Badr al-Din Muddaththir, and several other members of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as well as Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi in celebrating this dear occasion. Other cultural and intellectual figures also attended.

Regarding this young radio, we put our question to the Arab broadcaster and poet Adib Nasir, the director of the Mother of Battles Radio, to which he replied as follows:

The Mother of Battles Radio is a popular pan-Arab radio, which has been inspired by the immortal Mother of Battles. It has been established to fill the vacuum all of us have felt, we the sons of this nation who have not submitted to threats of force or to the will of the enemies of the nation's awakening and unity and who have kept the door to the future open by their sacrifices and ambitions. The purpose of establishing the Mother of Battles Radio is to give the great battle, which is still continuing, its voice. In other words, the nation must have a voice. Therefore, the task is not easy since we seek to break the wall of silence, prohibition, and counter propaganda, and yet another wall, which is the mistakes of our past experiences.

The director added: But, with the vigor and planning of the historical hero and commander of the battle, Saddam Husayn, we will gain confidence and become the voice of the nation. Therefore, the reason for establishing this radio is that the battle is continuing and we are determined to wage it to the end. The battle is over the existence, future, and honor of the entire nation, not just one particular country. Thus, there is a principled political need to serve the great aims of Arab struggle. There is an intellectual need, because Arab awareness needs to be developed and enriched so as to serve the cultural confrontation. Furthermore, there is a struggle need. All that constitutes one pressing need for a strong, frank, and clear voice which can carry the message and express it.

Asked about the frequencies on which this young radio will transmit its programs to listeners in the Arab homeland, the director said: Our radio will transmit its programs so as to cover the entire geographical area of the Arab homeland on two medium and three short waves. The medium waves 693 and 1377 khz are beamed to the countries of North Africa, or Arab Maghreb, including Egypt and Libya. The short waves 15240, 13650, and 7150 khz are beamed to Arab listeners in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf states. Our evening transmission will be from 2000 to 2300. There will also be another transmission period from 2400 midnight until 0300 the following day.

Asked why the Mother of Battles Radio appeared now and not earlier, the director said: There are certain well-known reasons. Circumstances and resources have imposed their own priorities. Now we have decided to go ahead, and we will carry out our decision and cross all distances and barriers. The battle is one of the Arab nation, in the sense that we want to raise the voice of the nation through our pens and throats. We are confident that the millions of Arabs want a voice. They did not rise on the day of the call, the challenge, and the clash to regress into a state of lethargy. On the contrary, the Arabs are in a state of concern for their destiny and also in a state of awakening and alertness to the extent that they are eager to take any action which will end their suffering and open the way for human interaction.

Later, AL-QADISIYAH walked through the corridors of the young radio, whose voice rebounds from the Baghdad of peace and victory. The paper met with the heads of sections to learn about the programs which have been prepared for Arab listeners. Our first meeting was with journalist Hasan Kamil, head of the radio's political section, who said: We now have three daily political programs and a full news program consisting of a newscast, news reports, and reportages. This is in addition to a daily commentary consisting of an opinion on or an analysis of hot events. The Mother of Battles Radio has made it a point from the beginning to present clear and definite information and to try to present the truth to all the Arab masses which receive our transmission.

The poet 'Abd-al-Mun'im Hamdi, head of the cultural section, said that the section has prepared several cultural and intellectual programs, such as the daily features: "Songs for the Homeland and the Nation," "Reading from Books of Heritage," "Arab Eloquence," and "We Will Always Meet."

Hamdi explained that all these features have one cultural message, which is to project the nation's greatness, confront the cultural invasion of the Arab mind, and emphasize the mission of the Arab nation for the sake of carrying out its national cultural plan.

The coordination section has its own programs. The broadcaster 'Isa al-Zaytawi, the head of this section, said that a full radio course has been prepared and is now being implemented. He added: As in any young radio, this course is bound to undergo some changes in the initial period, but we are strongly determined to present a program which conveys a clear opinion and expresses the personality of the radio and its objectives.

The Mother of Battles Radio also has a variety program. The variety program section, which is headed by journalist Hisham 'Awdah, has prepared several variety programs; three daily and one weekly.

Peres Comments on Jerusalem Bus Bombing

TA2208153495 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 22 Aug 95

["Excerpts" from statements by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem on 22 August; issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] I think that we must do two things: One, is to do everything necessary to fight terrorism, in order to follow those who planned this horrible attack, those who sent the suicide bomber, and nothing must distract us from doing whatever is required, both to punish and to deter. At the same time, we must continue the peace process, because to do only one thing, is to miss the truth and the reality. If we continue with the peace process alone, without dealing, as we must, with an iron hand against terrorism, we will miss our objective. However, it is impossible to fight terrorism without also fighting the situation that causes terrorism, creates it and supports it. We think all of the time. We do not need a pause in order to reflect. And no one whom I know has a solution which does not include a peace treaty, an understanding, between us and our Arab neighbors, as difficult and complex as this is. We see substantial change in Gaza, where the Palestinians themselves chose to understand that terrorism harms them as much as it does us. Actually, the real victim, in the end, will be Palestinian interests, if they do not fight terrorism as required.

Thus, the front which must emerge is the front against terror and terrorists, against lunatics, against the violent people attempting to destroy our lives, and the lives of the Arabs, and the lives of the generation to come. We will do these two things, without hesitation.

To my great regret, even in situations where we had sole responsibility, things like this happened. We want to achieve a situation, in which the full Palestinian capability will be genuinely united and deployed against terrorism. At the beginning, the situation was that almost all of the Palestinians supported terrorism. Today, there is a change. A large segment of the Palestinians, with Fatah leading them, have chosen to abandon the path of terrorism, and to fight the terrorists. We hope that the majority of the Palestinian people will join this war which harms them — not for our sake, but for theirs.

I do not think that this attack has to change the schedule of the negotiations, although there will be a short pause of deep national mourning and sorrow. This is a very difficult hour for us, and I do not attempt to deny it, but even in this difficult time, we must weigh matters with clear reason and iron logic.

I do not believe in placebos. I do not believe in the saying, "to speed up the final agreement" — how is this to be done? To rush to the final agreement is to rush to an unavoidable confrontation. We must move gradually. For example, if someone had suggested, "everything first," rather than Gaza and Jericho first — we would have no agreement. We must move one step at a time. And today, in my opinion, the majority of the public is united in supporting what we have done in Gaza, even though many opposed it at the start... Today, it is not appropriate, in any respect, to achieve a permanent agreement, and whoever says it is, are those who simply do not understand negotiations, and the difficulties of a negotiation of this sort.

Sarid: No Warnings of Future Terrorist Attacks

TA2308105495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid said that there have been no special intelligence warnings of planned terrorist attacks in the near future. Following a visit to Bethlehem, Minister Sarid told our correspondent Esti Perez that the reports about anticipated attacks only sowed panic. There are, nevertheless, constant warnings that must be taken seriously, and we have to be on the alert, the minister said.

Minister Sarid and Germany Economic and Development Minister Carl Dieter Spranger visited Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj to discuss the establishment of a new sewage system for Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, and Bayt Jala. Germany donated 30 million German marks for the project, while Israel's contribution will be to ease the tax burden on the area's residents.

Gaza Opened; Further Hamas Attacks Expected

TA2308051895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli security sources say Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists will attempt more suicide bombing attacks before the signing of the Oslo B autonomy agreement. Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that the security forces are going all out to prevent any such attempts, concentrating on intelligence gathering.

Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq has warned that unless the Palestinian Authority [PA] acts forcefully against the terrorists, the interim accord will not succeed. General Shahaq told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that cooperation with the PA is essential because the security forces will face a more difficult situation in Judaea and Samaria after an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

The closure on Judaea and Samaria has been extended until tomorrow morning. Three hours ago, the closure of the Gaza Strip was lifted; however, only Palestinians with new magnetic ID cards were allowed to reenter Israel. The territories were sealed off following Monday's [21 August] suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Limited IDF Presence Noticed in West Bank

TA2208184095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Video report by Yoram Binur]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only a sparse IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence could be noticed in the large cities of the territories today. The top security echelon's decision to place roadblocks at the exit of the central cities in the territories has not been implemented so far and the IDF is meanwhile settling for infrequent patrols. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Binur reports:

[Begin Binur recording] The IDF is avoiding entering the centers of large cities in the territories. This policy, which has been in effect for more than a year now, is aimed at preventing unnecessary friction with the local population.

In a security consultation held in the wake of yesterday's attack, it was decided to place roadblocks here too, in the heart of Ramallah, as well as in the other cities in the territories — this following warnings about another attack which the terrorists intend to carry out in the next few days.

Despite the plan presented yesterday to bolster the security forces' presence in the territories, the IDF did not enter the centers of the West Bank cities today. IDF forces continue to follow their usual method: deployment in bases near the cities and limited patrols on the streets.

Here, on the Baytuniya road leading to Ramallah, several deadly attacks have been perpetrated in the past. Today, except for a lone Border Police patrol, there was no military presence on this road. The roadblocks posted at the crossing points between the West Bank and the Green Line are the only expression of the closure. The residents of the territories will not be able to enter Israel until tomorrow morning, but even the security elements say that a suicide terrorist will not reach the roadblock, but bypass it easily. [end recording]

Rabin: Most Hamas Activity From West Bank

TA2308105195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that most Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity is taking place in Judaea and Samaria. Rabin believes that the latest suicide bombings on Ramat Gan and Jerusalem buses were perpetrated by people living in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister also referred to Palestinian announcements that Hamas operates from Damascus and is its responsibility. The prime minister toured the Golan Heights, met with officers on a battalion commanders' course, and watched a joint exercise. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe spoke with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Mr. Prime Minister, the Palestinians are claiming that Hamas' activities are Damascus' responsibility.

[Rabin] Most Hamas activity is perpetrated by people based in Judaea and Samaria. I believe that the Ramat Gan and Jerusalem attacks were perpetrated by Judaea and Samaria inhabitants and were prepared in Judaea and Samaria. The directives and announcements come from Damascus as well. We know that Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi has been based in Damascus for many years since his deportation from Jerusalem or its environs in 1985. A certain Hamas shaykh and leader, the spiritual guide and perhaps also the boss of Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash, was deported by us in 1982 or 1983.

[Menashe] The prime minister said we must also remember that the policymakers, the sermonizers, and the recruits for planting bombs mainly come from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza.

[Rabin] That has been the reality since the Madrid conference. Al-Quds radio operated throughout the intifadah. Nobody tied attending the Madrid conference to banning the Syrians from locating terrorist commands in Damascus. The negotiations with Syria started at the Madrid conference and continued in Washington without linking it to any demand to remove the terrorist commands from Damascus and Lebanese areas under Syrian control.

[Menashe] Most of the suicide attacks originated in Judaea and Samaria, which are under Israeli control: 'Afula, Hadera, Dizengoff, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem. Many attempted suicides that were foiled were not made public, Rabin said. A suicide attempt from Gaza was foiled by the Palestinian police, Rabin stressed. [end recording]

Chief of Staff Discusses PA Antiterror Action

TA2208170495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army chief of staff warned today in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that unless the Palestinians are totally effective in fighting terrorism, he has his doubts that the arrangements now being negotiated will work.

[Correspondent David Ze'ev] Though Prime Minister Rabin said the talks with the Palestinians would not resume until after the funerals of the victims in yesterday's bombing, and Foreign Minister Peres said there would be no negotiations today, an Israeli official in Elat says they have resumed.

A U.S. Administration source described the involvement of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, vacationing in Israel, as low-profile — making some phone calls.

The Israeli army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, issued a warning today. Official sources quote the army chief at a closed-door meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: If the Palestinians do not operate against terrorism, everything we are doing now will not succeed. Even if they are partially effective, I would still have my doubts. The army chief said he has no doubt that after the Israeli pullout from Palestinian West Bank cities, the Israeli security operations will be more difficult to carry out. Gen. Shahaq is said to have singled out intelligence operations which would be adversely affected.

The chief of staff said the Palestinians have only carried out a few dozen arrests, that only 19 people were put on trial, with sentences ranging from only four to seven years. Gen. Shahaq referred to the angry mob which clashed with Palestinian security forces, when they arrested Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza over the weekend.

A senior Israeli intelligence officer, who also briefed the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is quoted as confirming that there was, apparently, coordination between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas to release those taken in the Friday operation — though, despite the rumors to the contrary, the Israeli officer said, they have not been released yet.

Gen. Shahaq was upbeat on the aftermath of the defection of Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law to Jordan. The general looked forward to the possibility of gaining a much better understanding, as he put it, of Iraq's nonconventional capabilities. According to the Israeli estimation, Gen. Shahaq said, there are no more nuclear weapons, apparently no more Scud missiles, and that the launchers in Iraq are few and far between. The Israeli chief of staff praised the work in Iraq of the UN inspection team.

[Similar reports on Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 1400 GMT and on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 22 August cite Gen. Shahaq as saying Iraq no longer has chemical weapons or Scud missiles, making no reference to nuclear weapons.]

Deputy Minister Urges PA Action Against Terror

TA2208145895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan says the Palestinian Authority [PA] is not doing its best to fight terrorism and Israel expects it to do more.

The deputy foreign minister made these remarks during a meeting with the Russian, British, and Australian ambassadors, who came to express their governments' condolences on the attack in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr. Dayan asked the ambassadors to urge their governments to pressure 'Arafat to retract his statements about jihad and the Quraysh agreement, which are not conducive to the general atmosphere.

Timetable for Oslo B Talks Detailed

TA2208142995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations on Oslo B have resumed this afternoon. The talks were stopped following the bus attack yesterday [21 August]. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that approximately 100 persons are attending the talks on each side in the framework of 15 subcommittees.

The delegations plan to finalize the Oslo B agreement by the end of the week, except for the problematic issues, such as the security arrangements in Hebron, water, and the release of prisoners. If agreement is achieved in the other issues, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet next week to discuss the outstanding problems. A concluding meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat is also possible.

Commentary Notes Rabin, Peres Differences on Talks

TA1708112595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Meron Benvenisti: "Two Solutions for an Arrangement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Recent statements made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicate that the "territorial compromise" advocated by the Alon plan [developed after the Six-Day War by then Foreign Minister Yig'al Alon and calling for the return of the densely populated areas in the territories to a Jordanian-Palestinian state while remaining in control of the Jordan Rift Valley and the mountain ridge] continues to be his plan for the permanent arrangement. The use of expressions such as "no return to the 1967 line" and "the Jordan as a security border and Jerusalem" are not haphazard and do not merely prove that he has not deviated from the Labor platform. Like Yig'al Alon, Rabin believes it is possible to attain an agreement with the Arabs based on a division of the West Bank. Contrary to Alon, who linked his plan to the Jordanian option, Rabin has adopted his concept to the new reality and replaced Husayn with 'Arafat. This change, however, has not changed his fundamental concept under which there is a geopolitical, surgical solution to the problem of the territories. Paradoxically, it seems that Shim'on Peres — who is radiating optimism as opposed to Rabin's pessimism — is close to Moshe Dayan's pessimistic outlook regarding chances of solving the conflict by demarcating a new border West of the Jordan River.

Appropriately enough, Peres is emphasizing that the interim agreement being worked out coincides with the Camp David Accords. It is true that he snipes at the Likud by telling them that "this is the autonomy you signed in Camp David." He knows, however, that this autonomy is not a Likud plan but Moshe Dayan's. Menahem Begin's autonomy plan called for permanently solving the "Eretz Yisra'el Arabs'" problem in the framework of Greater Israel. It was only the influence of Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman that turned it into an "interim arrangement." Had Begin permitted Dayan to faithfully implement the Camp David Accords, we may have been spared 15 years and thousands of victims. As everybody knows, however, this did not happen. In 1985 Peres, as prime minister in the national unity government, tried to save the Dayan concept by raising the condominium plan advocating "functional compromise." Reading that plan, one is immediately struck by the great resemblance it bears to Oslo B, with one difference: the ruling partner is no longer King Husayn but Yasir 'Arafat. This difference is not essential, however, because Peres distinguishes between 'Arafat as a ruler of a well defined territory (Gaza and the West Bank cities), and between 'Arafat as a ruling partner on the basis of a functional division of powers in areas to remain outside both Israeli and Palestinian sovereignty.

To sharpen the argument, it is possible to say that Rabin, like Alon, believes in the possibility of a permanent arrangement, while Peres, like Dayan, does not believe in the viability of a geopolitical arrangement involving total separation between Israelis and Palestinians. These different approaches are also expressed in their attitude to the concept of "separation," which is regarded by Rabin as a central political concept, while Peres views it merely as a security imperative. Naturally, the two agree on the basic principle shared by both Alon and Dayan, namely, that Israel must not control the lives of millions of Palestinians. Alon saw them as falling under a Jordanian umbrella, whereas Dayan maintained they should be allowed to conduct their own affairs, and this is what he told the military governors.

As long as there is no contradiction between the surgical and the functional solutions, Rabin and Peres will advance together. If the moment for a decision arrives, however, Rabin will present a map similar to the one presented by the Third Way, whereas Peres will advocate a plan "which does not include maps, only a flexible timetable." Whether such a moment for decision arrives depends, however, not on Rabin and Peres, but on 'Arafat, and it is not a coincidence that the Palestinian leader gets along so well with Peres. 'Arafat also does not believe it is possible to find a way to divide up the West Bank, except on the basis of the 1967 line, which Israel will not accept. Therefore his policy is similar to Peres': Both men believe the only option is to jointly manage the ongoing conflict.

Perhaps the three personages are wrong, because they are all prisoners of outmoded concepts and an anachronistic worldview. There is nothing we can do, however, about the fact that the three are heading the negotiations. It would have been advisable for the three, however, to at least present their publics with the real dilemmas and share their fundamental concepts with them.

Press Treatment of Jerusalem Bus Operation

JN2208185995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Jordanian Arabic dailies published on 22 August carry several editorials and articles commenting on the 21 August Jerusalem bus bombing.

All the newspapers carry banner headlines on the operation and reports citing foreign agencies. Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic carries on its front page the following headlines:

"On 26th Anniversary of al-Aqsa Fire and in First Settlement After 1967: Suicide Operation in Occupied Jerusalem; Four Israelis Killed; Israeli Tourist Killed; 100 Injured, 11 Seriously; Elat Negotiations Suspended; West Bank and Strip Closed; 'Arafat and Orient House Deplore Operation; al-Qassam Battalions Claim Responsibility; Occupation Searching for Palestinian Girl From al- 'Ayzariyah."

In an editorial on pages 1 and 21 headlined "Occupation, Annexation, and Violence in City of Peace," AL-RA'Y comments on the bus operation in Jerusalem. The paper says: "The leaders of Israeli occupation are right when they do not expect an end to the acts of violence. But they are absolutely wrong when they do not give the true reasons for the continuation of violence and ignore the main reason for this, namely, their continued occupation of Arab territory and their endless creation of justifications to prolong this occupation. In addition, the leaders of Israeli occupation continue to turn a blind eye to a very clear fact that ending occupation is the only way that can end violence and that can achieve peace."

The AL-RA'Y editorial advises the Israeli leaders not to deceive the Israeli people by claiming that Jerusalem is Israel's "eternal, undivided capital." The editorial concludes by saying: "The continued Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, the true gate of peace, threatens to blow up the Arab-Israeli peace process in its entirety."

In his "Every Day" column in AL-RA'Y on page 24, prominent Jordanian columnist Tariq Masarwah blames the Israeli Government for acts of violence and faults Israel's measures in the occupied territories, saying that Israel's closure of the territories, suspension of negotiations with the Palestinians, and other measures are "useless collective punishments" that negate Arab-Israeli coexistence. The columnist wonders how Israel plans to achieve peace while maintaining occupation.

In his "Frankly" column on pages 22 and 21 in AL-RA'Y, Sultan al- Hattab says the Ramat Eshkol operation is "complicated, serious, and critical" in terms of its location and logistics. Al-Hattab describes the setting of the operation and says that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad should "say anything other than claim responsibility for this operation," adding that if he were a member of any of these two organizations, he would denounce the operation. Al-Hattab also urges the Rabin government and the Labor Party not to quickly attribute this action to any Palestinian side because this "does not serve the peace process."

In another column in AL-RA'Y, Mahmud al-Rimawi on page 22 discusses Israeli measures in Jerusalem and settler actions to obstruct the peace negotiations. Referring to the Jerusalem operation, al-Rimawi argues that "the Israeli authorities are undoubtedly politically responsible for the prevailing atmosphere, which creates fertile ground for violence on both sides."

In a news analysis published in AL-RA'Y on page 25, Dr. Salah Jarrar says: "The Israelis are fully responsible for the suicide operations carried out by the Palestinians against Israeli soldiers and interests." The writer discusses Israeli practices and measures in the territories, as well as Israel's delaying tactics and procrastination in the negotiations with the Palestinians. The writer concludes his article that "yesterday's operation in Ramat Eshkol will not be the last of its kind until the Zionist occupiers reflect on the true reasons for such operations and until they withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories without any delay or procrastination."

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 22 August carries on its front page the following banner headlines on the Jerusalem operation:

"Hamas Claims Responsibility for Attack; PLO Condemns Attack; Rabin Suspends Negotiations; Worldwide Condemnation of Operation; 112 Israeli Killed or Injured in Jerusalem Suicide Operation."

The AL-DUSTUR editorial on pages 1 and 20 comments on the Jerusalem bus blast, saying the operation "sums up" the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The editorial says: "We, of course, do not justify killing defenseless civilians and do not approve of such operations that could weaken the credibility of the peace process." It adds: "This, however, does not prevent us from seeing the facts as they truly are and from assigning responsibility accurately by saying that delay in implementing the peace process, leaving this process under the mercy of settler mania, and the Israeli Government and Army connivance at extremist Zionist actions and reacting to these actions in a very tolerant way, are all factors that create a climate conducive to such operations, which reflect extreme frustration and despair on the part of the Palestinian people." Concluding, the editorial hopes that Israel will draw the right conclusions from the Jerusalem blast.

Several columnists write in AL-DUSTUR on the operation, mostly blaming Israel for the operation. For example, Muhammad Ka'wash, on pages 22 and 20, says Rabin should expect more operations because "the Palestinian people are now absolutely convinced that the Israelis are not honest in their treatment of the peace process and they are procrastinating to corner the Palestinian negotiator and force him to offer concessions."

In "Stand" column in AL-DUSTUR on page 22, Hamadah Fara'inah says he would neither condemn nor praise the Jerusalem operation. He says that these operations "will not facilitate Israeli withdrawal and regaining Palestinian sovereignty. On the contrary, these operations will increase Israeli intransigence." The writer concludes by saying that there is no need for such operations.

AL-ASWAQ on 22 August carries a short headline on the operation on its front page, and a report citing Israeli radio. The headline says: "Carried Out by 'Alyiah Abu-Ghaliyah, 109 Israelis Killed or Injured in Jerusalem Operation." The newspaper also carries a longer report in the inside pages on the operation, citing foreign agencies.

In an editorial on page 17, AL-ASWAQ notes that the blast coincides with the anniversary of the al-Aqsa Mosque fire. The editorial also notes Israel's continued procrastination in the implementation of the peace process. It adds that the blast does not serve the negotiations and is "one of the symptoms of the failure to accelerate the peace process." The editorial concludes:

"Since the majority of the peoples of the region is now convinced that security, stability, and peace are in everybody's interest, actions of violence and counter actions are not approved by this majority. At the same time, this majority is not satisfied with the delay in allowing the negotiations to achieve their just and comprehensive objectives. This delay conflicts with this majority's desire to turn over a new leaf between peoples."

AL-ASWAQ contains no columns on the Jerusalem operation.

UN's Ekeus Holds Talks With Iraqi Defector

JN2208200795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] UN official Rolf Ekeus and General Husayn Kamil Hasan held important talks in Amman, but nothing has yet transpired about the results of these talks. The aim of the talks is to compare the information Ekeus gathered in Baghdad on Iraqi armament with the information possessed by Husayn Kamil Hasan.

The two men are expected to hold other rounds of talks. Ekeus will stay in Jordan until Thursday [24 August]. Ekeus said in Amman he wants to meet Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan in order to compare the data he collected in his last trip to Baghdad with the information he will receive from Gen. Hasan. The meeting coincided with a surprise visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau to Amman. Pelletreau met Jordan's King Husayn for the second time in less than a week, amid signs of improvement in Jordanian-Kuwaiti ties, which deteriorated in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

In another development, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will visit Amman on Saturday [26 August]. Also, the Tunisian foreign minister is expected to arrive next Monday [28 August].

Further on Hasan Talks

JN2308091095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Senior U.N. arms inspector Rolf Ekeus on Tuesday [22 August] met with Husayn Kamil Hasan, former head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme who defected to Jordan this month, but failed to extract any Iraqi secrets from the defector, according to a cousin.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat who heads the U.S. [as published] Special Commission on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. terms, met with Lieutenant-General Hasan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, at an undisclosed site for four hours and could meet him again, informed sources said.

Mr. Ekeus had delayed his departure from Jordan until Wednesday, said the sources.

Major 'Izz-al-Din Hasan, a cousin of Gen. Hasan, who also defected on Aug 8, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the U.N. official did not get any Iraqi military secrets in Tuesday's meeting.

Major Hasan, who reportedly attended the meeting, said the general and Mr. Ekeus "discussed the Iraqi arms industry."

"But all the secrets were revealed by" the Iraqi Government, which invited Mr. Ekeus to Baghdad to receive hitherto hidden arms data immediately after Gen. Hasan's defection, Major Hasan was quoted as saying.

Other sources could not or would not confirm or deny Maj. Hasan's assertion.

"They (Mr. Ekeus and Gen. Hasan) have met in the context of the mandate given to Mr. Ekeus by the United Nations Security Council, and the work of the Special Commission is continuing," said one source. "Only the authorised U.N. officials attended the meeting," added the source without elaboration.

The source, however, confirmed that Mr. Ekeus had deferred his departure from Amman. A scheduled press conference failed to materialise on Tuesday, and expectations are that the U.N. official would meet journalists before he leaves Jordan on Wednesday.

The main objective of the Ekeus mission to Jordan is to cross- check information he has already received from the Iraqi Government.

Gen. Hasan himself has been quoted as saying that he did not think he had any secrets to reveal to Mr. Ekeus after the Iraqi Government itself provided all the details during a three-day visit the U.N. official paid to Baghdad last week and early this week.

"The Iraqi regime has asked Ekeus to return to be given more information and that will not be now, but in a short while," Maj. Hasan told the AP.

Tight secrecy surrounded Tuesday's talks. Mr. Ekeus was scheduled to meet Gen. Hasan on Monday, but the meeting was delayed overnight upon the former Iraqi minister's request.

Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said Tuesday the Jordanian Government was not playing any role in the meeting.

Meanwhile a team of U.N. germ warfare experts arrived in Baghdad to check out the new information provided by the Iraqi Government.

Richard Sportzel, head of the six-member mission, was quoted as saying by the AFP in a dispatch from Baghdad that the team was there "to follow up on the recent disclosure made by the Iraqis" to Mr. Ekeus.

Two teams of chemical and ballistic weapons experts are also due in Baghdad in September.

A clean bill of health from Mr. Ekeus is vital for the lifting/easing of the sanctions imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and is part of the ceasefire terms set by the U.N. followed the war that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991. [sentence as published]

The Iraqi leadership has agreed to cooperate completely with the U.N. Special Commission and provide all missing information about the country's weapons programmes, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'thist Party reached the decision on Monday during a meeting chaired by President Saddam, the news agency said.

In a related development, a senior Iraqi official was quoted as placing the blame for the missing information on Gen. Hasan, the defector.

Gen. 'Amir Rashid, who succeeded Gen. Hasan as head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation Organisation after the defection, told Jordanian journalists visiting Iraq that Gen. Hasan had hidden files containing the information in his farm.

According to Gen. Rashid, who was one of the key figures in contacts between Iraq and the U.N. Special Commission headed by Mr. Ekeus, said security forces, "acting on a tip-off," took Mr. Ekeus to Gen. Hasan's farm on Sunday and handed over the files, which were kept in an iron cupboard.

"These improtant files were discovered in the presence of Mr. Ekeus who was keenly interested in the informatin...which deprives Husayn Kamil of the importance of the information that he might give to Mr. Ekeus during their meeting in Amman," Gen. Rashid told the journalists.

According to the general, the defector had given "strict instructions" to concerned Iraqi officials not to give Mr. Ekeus any "detailed information" on Iraq's nuclear and biological warfare programme "to prolong the sanctions on Iraq."

Gen. Hasan has said that he was not in a position to "hide or reveal" anything to the U.N. Special Commission simply because he was not in charge of dealing with the panel. All dealings with the commission were directly guided by President Saddam Husayn himself, according to Gen. Hasan.

UN's Ekeus: Recent Iraqi Response 'Excellent'

JN2308095695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission entrusted with removing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said that he received a great deal of important information in Baghdad, particularly regarding the banned weapons.

At a news conference in Amman today, Ekeus said he will verify the information available to him. He added that Iraq no longer has chemical weapons that can pose a threat to the region, and it no longer has a missile capability.

Regarding Iraq's response to his recent mission, Ekeus said: The recent response was excellent. The arms programs, however, are complicated, and time is needed to verify the information. He said he will take the initiative with the Security Council and pass on this information which will help lift the sanctions on Iraq.

Islamic Parliament Official on U.S. Exercise Motives

NC2308094395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman of the Islamic Bloc in parliament, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given--recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Shaykh Hamzah Mansur, you have denounced the U.S. military exercises in the region. In your view, what are the aims of these exercises?

[Mansur] The U.S. aims are known. The United States is the inheritor of imperialism at this phase. Therefore, it wants to have a practical and military presence in this region. We believe that part of the aims of these joint exercises is connected with Iraqi affairs and the possibility of interfering in Iraq's affairs. The other part is connected with a kind of pressure on Syria to make it make more concessions to the Zionist entity. These exercises are a kind of threat to the region, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Developments in Iran are a cause for concern by Western quarters, above all the U.S. Administration. These, in my estimation, are the aims of the U.S. military presence, which is taking the form of joint exercises in Jordan, Kuwait, and Egypt, and an intensive presence in the Gulf, the Mediterranean, and the Red Sea.

[Correspondent] How does the Islamic trend in Jordan view and analyze developments in Iraq and their repercussions for Jordan?

[Mansur] The Islamic trend in particular and the popular trend in general feel a kind of concern for the recent developments resulting from the defection of Husayn Kamil. Therefore, we hope our people in Iraq will make their own decision and assume their responsibility without foreign intervention.

[Correspondent] The anniversary of the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque passed this year without official media coverage. What are the reasons for this media blackout?

[Mansur] I believe the phase the negotiating process has reached on several tracks is responsible for the lack of emphasis on the anniversary of the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque by official media. But the practical and honorable reply came yesterday at the hands of Palestinian mujahidin. It is a more eloquent reply than any verbal means of expression.

[Correspondent] How do you view the heroic Ramot Eshkol operation in Jerusalem and what is your comment on the hostile reaction to it?

[Mansur] The Palestinian people have been suffering from Zionist occupation and colonization for years. They are subjected to repression daily. Their land is occupied, they are displaced, and their bones have been broken. What do we expect from this people? Do we expect them to offer bouquets of flowers to their hangmen? Certainly, this is a legitimate jihad and this is a national, legitimate resistance carried out by sincere men and women strugglers. I really regret that some Arab voices have condemned this jihad operation carried out on behalf of the whole Islamic nation. The liberation of al-Aqsa, Jerusalem, and Palestine is an Islamic duty, not only a Palestinian or Arab duty. Therefore, when the mujahidin in Palestine from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, or from the Islamic Jihad carry out such operations, they do so on behalf of the Islamic nation and deserve every support.

[Correspondent] Many thanks to Shaykh Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman of the Islamic Bloc in the Jordanian Parliament and one of the key leaders of the Islamic Action Front Party in Jordan.

[Mansur] Thank you.

Columnist Says Suicide Operations To Continue

JN2308111495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Aug 95 p 1

["Briefly Speaking" column by "Sahban": "Ramat Eshkol!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No doubt, Palestinian suicide operations will continue, and Ramat Eshkol's operation will not be the last one. Likewise, it was said that the Ramat Gan and other operations would not be the last martyrdom operations.

Similar operations will be carried out as long as Israel treats Palestinian rights with arrogance and disregard such as deferring the discussions on Jerusalem and Hebron, building settlements, closing the crossing points, confiscating lands, desecrating Islamic holy places, and many other issues.

We tell the Zionists that they will not enjoy comfort and stability through force and hegemony, and that the only way for them is to yield to the great will of both the people and life.

Qatar Reportedly Mediating Between Baghdad, Amman

*JN2108144495 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 1*

[From the "Very Exclusive News Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Qatari amir is carrying out quiet mediation between Jordan and Iraq aimed at deciding the fate of the [Iraqi] presidents two daughters, who are currently staying in the al-Hashimiyah Palace in Jordan, and restoring relations between Amman and Baghdad to normal.

The Iraqi authorities had earlier contacted a number of Arab and friendly heads of state asking them to intercede with Jordan to settle the issue of Raghad and Rana. Chief among these heads of state were the amir of Qatar, the French president, and the Egyptian president, who will shortly dispatch his Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Jordan to discuss this issue as well as other political topics.

King's Statements on Iraq, Arab Ties Hailed

JN2008095895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Jordanian Arab-language daily newspapers AL-RA'Y and AL-ASWAQ on 20 August carry editorials hailing King Husayn's statements to reporters following a 19 August cabinet session in which he commented on relations with Iraq and Gulf states.

In a 550-word page one editorial entitled "King Husayn Dots All I's and Crosses all T's," AL-RA'Y notes the king's reiteration of Jordan's "constant stand" in support of the Iraqi people. AL-RA'Y adds: "Jordan will never think of disrupting this constant stand for the simple reason that Jordan's stand is not only dictated by economic and financial standards but by pan-Arab and strategic considerations because Iraq is our depth and our relations with it are complementary."

AL-RA'Y also highlights the king's remark that the U.S. Government has not asked Jordan to cut off its economic ties with Iraq, and concludes by referring to King Husayn's statements at the outset of the cabinet session yesterday when he noted that Jordan "will constantly support its nation and uphold its causes and that Jordan supports the fraternal Iraqi people's efforts to rid themselves of the ordeal of the siege so that they may enjoy their resources and freedom and return to play their role on the Arab and international scenes."

Under the headline "Deep-Rooted Facts and the New Dawn," AL-ASWAQ's 350-word page 17 editorial notes that "what the king said about the situation in the Arab region — that it is going to be more relaxed and reassuring — reinforces our hopes that Jordan's efforts to expand and entrench Arab relations will soon witness more progress and success."

The paper adds that "since the Jordanian Arab strategy has never been lured by tactical temptations and temporary parochial interests, Jordan's success in opening a new chapter with our brothers will be in the interest of the Arab nation as a whole and will achieve the aspirations of all faithful sons of the nation for an overall Arab return to dialogue, cooperation, and coordination conducive to the aspired integration."

AL-ASWAQ then stresses the importance of reinforcing inter-Arab relations in order to fortify the nation against dangers, noting that development under the canopy of peace and stability requires pan-Arab cooperation. It concludes by noting that Jordan is now presenting a model in democracy and respect for people's rights, and is extending bridges of communication with Arabs for the sake of a better Arab life.

Paper: Gulf Ties Cannot Be at Expense of Iraq

*MM2208165895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 3*

[Report by Bassam Baddarin: "Jordan Opposes U.S. Military Escalation Against Iraq and Proposes 'a Quiet Plan' To Exploit Husayn Kamil's Defection"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — The day before yesterday Jordan asked the U.S. Administration to "give it another chance to work quietly" in tackling the recent Iraqi developments. Jordanian and Iraqi officials have exchanged diplomatic "courtesies" confirming "the depth of relations between the two sides" in a joint attempt to contain the repercussions of the defection to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil, former Iraqi military industrialization minister.

In a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti reaffirmed that the improvement of Jordan's relations with the Gulf will not be at the expense of Jordan's relations with Baghdad. He pointed out that Iraqi-Jordanian relations are still good and deep-rooted despite the fact that Husayn Kamil was granted political asylum.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the Jordanian request was submitted to the U.S. Administration during the Jordanian Government's talks with U.S. officials who left Amman yesterday. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau and U.S. Presidential Adviser Mike

Paris had met in Amman with King Husayn and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir separately.

According to informed Jordanian sources, Jordan told the U.S. Administration that it sees no justification for the military movements in the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, and asked for a chance to use quiet diplomacy that would ensure fulfillment of the American terms without reshuffling the cards in the region or causing an unjustified conflict with Iraq. The sources referred to Jordanian- Iraqi contacts currently in progress.

The Jordanian prime minister told the U.S. delegation he met with last Friday that Jordan knows its role perfectly in dealing with the consequences of the crisis and has assurances from Baghdad that it will divulge all the military secrets to bring about an end to the blockade, and that Jordan has a full concept and a ready scenario for a final but gradual solution to the Iraqi problem, a "scenario" which Jordan officially asked the U.S. Administration to back and support.

Jordan believes at this stage that Iraq is prepared to meet all the UN conditions for lifting the economic embargo but that it needs an intrinsic driving force linked to internal calculations. The Jordanian "scenario," some details of which were revealed by some sources to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, focuses on exploitation of Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection in a calculated political way without generating more tension in the region.

The Jordanians maintain that they can achieve two objectives simultaneously without bloodshed and without contemplating bringing down the Iraqi president, that is to say they would persuade Baghdad to reveal absolutely all its military plans first and then persuade it to participate in the current settlement process in the region on the basis of the regional terms implicitly agreed upon by the parties concerned.

It was on that basis that Jordan sought U.S. Administration support for the fulfillment of these objectives and called on it to abandon the military measures which could lead to more tension in the region.

It is not known if the U.S. delegation which visited Amman accepted the Jordanian ideas on Iraq, but a Western diplomat has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that it seemed that Pelletreau's plans failed in Amman because of new developments.

It seems clear from the disclosed information that the "Jordanian concept" for tackling the Iraqi problems differs in its details from the "American concept," but, as a Jordanian Foreign Ministry senior official said, this has not reached the point of contradiction and conflict particularly as the Jordanian ideas were submitted to the U.S. delegation in a calm and diplomatic manner.

The official said: To put it briefly, we told Washington that it can get "the grapes" without fighting "the watchman." Jordanian analysts say that Jordan is trying to exploit the (Husayn Kamil) story and its results to strengthen its position in the region as a pivotal state. The chairman of the Jordanian Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee ('Abdallah al-Nusur), a prominent Jordanian figure, says that Jordan knows exactly how to handle the situation at this stage and how to safeguard its political calculations.

Answering claims that the United States is putting pressure on Amman to sever its ties with Baghdad, al-Nusur said: We are a sovereign state and I doubt that we base our policies on the calculations of others. Commenting on the same reports, Foreign Minister al-Kabariti said: We do not address pressures that did not occur anyway and we do not determine our stands on the basis of the stands of others. [passage omitted]

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the Jordanian authorities have asked Gen. Kamil, who is living in a Amman suburb under strict guard, not to answer any statements issued against him by Baghdad at this point. It has been learned that Kamil asked the Jordanian Government to permit him to make statements and issue press releases explaining his position regarding what is said in Baghdad, but the Jordanian Government asked him to postpone that and not to cause more problems.

Bin-Shakir on Efforts for Arab Reconciliation on Iraq

JN2208131195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 95 p 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'ida Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on Monday [21 August] stressed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis Iraq and said there are clear and encouraging signs that Jordan's diplomacy will help seal Arab reconciliation, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) reported.

In a meeting with members of the Senate on the latest developments, the prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's policy of non- interference in other countries' internal affairs, Speaker Ahmad al- Lawzi said.

Speaking to the press shortly after the session, Mr. al-Lawzi said Jordan insists on an end of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since 1990 and seeks at the same time to enhance Arab relations to achieve Arab reconciliation and solidarity.

"Jordan stands firm on its policy of non-interference in the internal policies of Arab countries. The policy not only applies to Iraq, but also to Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and all neighbouring Arab countries," Mr. al-Lawzi quoted al-Sharif Zayd as saying. "Jordan, its government and people, would not accept other countries to meddle in its affairs."

"Jordan is keen on restoring Arab solidarity... Jordan's diplomacy will have an effective role in sealing reconciliation," al-Sharif Zayd told the Senate, according to Mr. al-Lawzi.

The meeting,. Mr. al-Lawzi said, also focussed on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October and ways of making this summit successful.

he said the package of economic laws—mainly the income tax law, the sales tax law and the encouragement of investment law which are being reviewed by the Lower House's Financial Committee —are of paramount importance to the success of the summit.

Minister Praises Kuwait, Says Iraq Oil To Continue

JN2308105995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Shakir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has praised Kuwait's readiness to discuss the issue of supplying Jordan with oil. He said that this is a step toward improving relations between the two sisterly countries and restoring good brotherly ties.

Darwazah said: Jordan does not need Kuwaiti oil or any other oil; we are doing fine, praised be God. Jordan will continue to import oil from sisterly Iraq as usual and it has no problems with this. Darwazah added: Jordan's stand toward Iraq is clear and we consider Iraq our strategic depth. Pointing to statements attributed to U.S. officials who visited Kuwait recently, headed by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, Darwazah said: There is no need to change our oil supplier. He said that he does not know of any U.S. pressures on Jordan to prevent it from importing Iraqi oil. He added that Jordan's stands stem from its higher national interests, regardless of the statements and desires of any party.

The minister of energy said that Jordan has been importing oil from Iraq for many years. If Jordan changes its source of oil, he said, it will face technical and financial difficulties. He noted that Jordan imports 3.25 million tonnes of oil and 900,000 tonnes of oil derivatives from Iraq annually.

News agencies yesterday cited Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as saying that the door is open for discussing the issue of exporting oil to Jordan, which currently depends on Iraq to meet its oil needs. Al-Sabah made this statement following a meeting between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau and the amir of Kuwait. Some diplomats were cited as saying that Pelletreau, who visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, sought to rally support for plans aimed at tightening the isolation of Iraq.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said that Jordan did not ask to be supplied with Kuwaiti oil, but Kuwait will look into the matter if proposed in the future. Kuwaiti members of parliament say that during a closed session, the government informed the parliament of a U.S. request conveyed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to supply Jordan with 50,000 barrels of oil a day to compensate for the lack of Iraqi oil if the Jordanian-Iraqi border were to close.

It is noteworthy that the United Nations allows Iraq, which has been under a tight embargo since 1990, to sell no more than 70,000 oil barrels a day. This deprived Iraq of revenues to buy food and medicine and placed the Iraqi people in a tragic situation.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau left Amman at the conclusion of a tour in the region.

Ayatollah Fadlallah: 'All Palestine is a War Zone'

NC2308082095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that all Palestine is a war zone and that every Jew who unlawfully occupies a house or land belonging to a Palestinian is a legitimate target.

Fadlallah said the fighters in Palestine are not only those who carry guns, but are also those who usurp and seize people's homes and land there. He said there are no innocent Jews in Palestine. The area is a war zone. They kill many of our women, children, and elderly people. They destroy many of our houses. They confiscate our water and freedom. He asked: What innocence is this? We consider all Jews living in Palestine to be in a state of war until they give back to the Palestinians their homes and land and they go back where they came from. We also consider that the martyrs are heroes in the battle of martyrdom, the highest degree of martyrdom.

Fadlallah asked: What martyrdom is greater than making yourself a human bomb detonating it among the enemy? What spiritualism is greater than this spiritualism in which a person loses all feeling of his body and life for the sake of his cause and mission?

Fadlallah added: As for 'Arafat, who accuses Iran of being behind such things [suicide operations] and supporting Hamas, he behaves as if he does not see that the oppressed and downtrodden Palestinians are homeless and face humiliation in their livelihood, policy, economy, and security by the Jews, whether by the state or by the settlers. Does this mean that the Palestinians are not enthusiastic about their land and cause and that they need another state to spur them on? He added: Through the self-rule 'Arafat has humiliated the Palestinians on the political, economic, and security levels through his concessions—more now than before this self-rule was introduced. He made the Palestinians give up the big cause without Israel giving anything in return.

Fadlallah said: We ask 'Arafat: When you were a fighter in Fatah, did you accept payment by this state or that state so that you would now accuse the mujahidin from Hamas and Islamic Jihad of receiving funds from Iran? A traitor does not believe there are sincere people and a bribed person does not believe there are people who cannot be bribed.

Fadlallah said: Despite its harsh economic conditions, Iran is greatly honored to be responsible for the land of Muslims and their dignity. Iran is standing alone in the world with the Palestinian people and supporting their struggle.

Hizballah Statement Hails Suicide Operation

NC2308073795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the new Zionist-Palestinian agreement and the operation carried out in occupied Jerusalem on 21 August, Hizballah issued a statement, which said in part: Coinciding with the 26th anniversary of the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Jerusalem operation was a natural and expected reply to the recent Zionist measures to seize the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem as part of a gradual plan to judaize them and in line with the illusions of a greater Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Zionist entity.

The operation occurred at a time when Jewish settlement activity has covered most of the West Bank, either by the settlers' attempts to seize land and establish settlements on them or by the Israeli Government's seizure of more land and its opening roads linking the settlements spreading in the various parts of the West Bank. The injustice done to our kin in Palestine has not stopped here, but has included repressive measures carried out by the occupation authorities and the self-rule authority together. The two authorities are coordinating their intelligence and security activities and are dividing roles among the Israeli and 'Arafatist repressive organs, the latest example being what happened in the Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza a few days ago.

The Hizballah statement said that the Palestinian people, through their legitimate resistance of the judaization and settlement activity carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities in cooperation with the self-rule authority, express the injustice done to them by the agreements 'Arafat signed under the canopy of the United States, the big sponsor of the Zionist entity. These agreements have forcibly taken from this people their land and holy places, confiscated their freedom and their right to live a dignified life, canceled their future, and placed their fate in the hands of the usurping enemy, which seeks to seize their land for good as part of its plan to judaize and settle all Palestine.

The Hizballah statement said the Jerusalem operation coincided with reports that Israeli and 'Arafatists negotiators are about to wrap up a new agreement to expand self-rule in the West Bank. This agreement does not meet the approval and support of our kin in Palestine and does not express their hopes and goals. This agreement is only binding to those will sign it, who are outcasts and do not represent the Palestinian people after they have become a repressive authority.

The Hizballah statement saluted the jihad of the oppressed people in Palestine and the heroes of the glorious intifadah. It stated that the Resistance alone is the best option for liberating the land and achieving legitimate rights.

Commentary Rationalizes Jerusalem Bus Explosion

JN2208134095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israel has closed the West Bank and Gaza Strip and tightened its military and security siege of the Palestinian cities and towns following the suicide operation in Jerusalem in which a number of people were killed and a large number of others were injured. Israeli officials were quick to condemn the operation. They did not bother to ask the major question: Why does the wave of violence continue in the occupied territories and why did the Oslo agreement and the ensuing agreements fail to achieve security and peace?

We say this because no people on this earth love violence. However, there are people who love freedom and fight for it. When the freedom of a certain people is confiscated or threatened, this people would defend themselves through all possible means. The Arab Palestinian people are one of the peoples that have been done an injustice. They are the people that have been most exposed to aggression, which took the form of uprooting them from the land and homeland and expelling them from their homes.

When the United States announced its peace initiative in the region on the basis of Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, the Arabs and Palestinians welcomed and responded to the efforts made and all took part in Washington talks. However, it was soon revealed that Israel does not want a comprehensive and genuine peace, but rather partial and unilateral deals, and that it seeks to deal with each Arab party unilaterally. The Palestinian side, indeed, was the first to fall into the Israeli trap when it entered the corridors of Oslo, which led to the well-known deal. Syria at the time said that the deal would further complicate matters and that it would not lead to the aspired peace. In fact, the agreement and what followed led to an actual confiscation of the Palestinian people's rights and to the cancellation of their aspiration for freedom and independence. It also consecrated the Israeli repression against their freedom and resources. It is natural, under such conditions, for optimism to turn into frustration and bitterness and for the conditions in the West Bank to deteriorate after Israel succeeded in forcing the limited self-rule authority into relinquishment and to employ the police of this authority to pursue patriotic Palestinians.

Israel is first and foremost responsible for sabotaging the peace process in the region and for derailing it from its foundations and goals. It is responsible for the incidents and turmoil in the Palestinian arena. It is also responsible for the stalemated peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Through its obstinacy and prevarication, it hinders the accomplishment of a real peace and a stable security.

Syria and the Arabs are looking forward to a just and comprehensive peace that would address all aspects of conflict and not to lame and unfair agreements that would consecrate occupation and hegemony under the pretext of security. Had Israel responded to the Syrian proposals, agreed to implement Security Council resolutions, and committed itself to the essence of the peace process — through full withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in June 1967 — peace would have become an established reality on all the fronts of conflict and security would have prevailed throughout the region.

Lame and unfair agreements dictated by Israel will not make or lead to peace either now or in the future. Israel, in the final analysis, is deceiving itself before anyone else. Solid and stable peace has certain requirements and foundations. Without Israel's commitment to these requirements and foundations, chief of which is full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab lands, the Middle East peace plan would remain suspended.

Radio on Israeli 'Crimes,' Jerusalem Operation

JN2208175795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1532 GMT 22 Aug 95

["Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return" by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear brother strugglers: It seems that what happened in Jerusalem 27 years ago was repeated yesterday, that is, only hours ago. The Arab Jerusalem and the Arab and Islamic worlds yesterday commemorated the anniversary of Israel's arson attack against the al-Aqsa Mosque, which emerged from the ashes to remain for ever the al-Aqsa which God blessed along with the rock of ascension [from where Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven] and its holy dome. The flames of the fire set by the Israeli fanatic, criminal Michael Rohan, will continue to burn the faces of Arab and Muslims until they purge the holy al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Arab Jerusalem from the filth of the Israeli racism.

Michael Rohan is an Israeli Jew even though Israel tried to prove that he is not a Jew, a Zionist, or an Israeli when it claimed that he was an Australian. Michael Rohan is an Israeli Jew, and there is no need to describe him as an extremist because 90 percent of them are extremists. Let us call a spade a spade: They are extremists, fanatics, racists to the degree of primitive paganism.

When Michael Rohan set the fire of Israeli paganism to the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, Muslim and Christian residents of Jerusalem rushed to extinguish the fire with limited quantities of water and the pure soil of Jerusalem. Many Arabs suffered burns, which they did not feel, while trying to extinguish the fire. On the other hand, the Israeli colonialist authorities — the de facto authority which should extinguish the fire according to the international law — did nothing to put it out. This is to be expected, because Israel planned the fire and prompted terrorist Michael Rohan to commit this pagan terrorism against the first qiblah and third holy mosque.

However, al-Aqsa Mosque survived the fire to witness the rest of the farce fabricated by Israel when it claimed that Michael Rohan was deranged and could not be held responsible for his actions. However, this alleged madness did not prevent him from enjoying the softest punishment in history, that is, house arrest in a luxurious Israel tourist resort. Israel then produced another extremist, fanatic, pagan and racist terrorist called Godman, a soldier in the Israeli colonialist army. Godman and his cowardly, lowly companions opened fire with machine guns on worshipers performing prayers in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, killing many of them. Israel then resorted to its excuse, which is uglier than guilt, that Godman was deranged like Michael Rohan.

Between various incidents, and after them, Israel gave birth to new scorpions and spiders such as the Temple Mount Faithful, the Zo Artzenu, and also the Kakh, Shas, and Gush Emunim. They enter the holy al-Aqsa Mosque to defile it under the protection of the racist Israeli army. Most times, and despite the protection of the colonialist Israeli army, they all fled to escape destruction by the stones and clubs of the Jerusalem citizens.

The crimes of the Israeli terrorism and colonialism in Jerusalem have escalated. They have reached two high peaks and sunk into two very deep abysses. The second was five years ago when hundreds of soldiers of the racist Israeli pagans opened fire on worshipers at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. We are talking about the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, not the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Some 40 Palestinian Arab citizens or more were martyred, and hundreds of others were wounded. The first was approximately 10 years ago when the pagans of the Israeli racism brought trucks loaded with explosives to blow up the entire holy al-Aqsa Mosque. However, the vigilant mosque guards chased them and expelled them, along with their explosives, terrorism, and filth, from old Jerusalem to outside its walls.

We will pause at this incomplete crime, which the criminals failed to perpetrate. In fact, we will pause at a statement by the known Israeli Minister Yosi Sarid, who then said that had this explosion occurred, it would have shaken not only Jerusalem, Israel, and the Middle East, but the entire So, they know this. This means that any Israeli who wants to defile the holy al-Aqsa Mosque knows the consequences. This is if he really wants to know them. He can know what Yosi Sarid knew.

On the 26th anniversary of the burning of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque by Israel and the pagan Israeli racism, Arab Jerusalem gave strong proof of the soundness of the frightening analysis by Israeli Minister Yosi Sarid approximately 10 years ago. This was when Arab Jerusalem stressed, through the voluntarily martyrdom yesterday, that death will be the lot of the enemies of Arab Jerusalem and Arab Palestine.

Hence, the peoples' experiences can enlighten Israel about the consequences. This can be done through old sayings, wisdom, and experiences which can reach the level of a scientific law. We do not want to refer here to old Arab sayings, but to an old Russian saying which is known to at least half the Israelis; the half which speaks Russian at home and in the street because it is their mother tongue despite the fact that they have learned Hebrew. According to one of these old Russian sayings, and as if referring to Israel's terrorism in occupied Arab Jerusalem: He who fires his bullets at history, should expect that history will reply to him by rockets from its mighty guns.

Report on al-Shar' Talks, Activities in Sweden

JN2208193095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official session of talks was held at the Swedish Foreign Ministry in Stockholm this morning between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Swedish side led by Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen.

The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, the assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, the Syrian ambassador to Sweden; Hasib Ustuwani, head of the Western Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Hani Habib, director of the Economic Administration Department. The talks were attended on the Swedish side by Jan Eliasson, the assistant foreign minister; (Jan Norland,) the Swedish ambassador in Damascus; (Andres Oligand), deputy assistant foreign minister for political affairs; and (Katerina Cape), deputy assistant foreign minister for Middle Eastern affairs.

The talks dealt with the conditions in the region, the developments of the peace process, and the obstacles

Israel is placing on its path. In this regard, the Swedish foreign minister valued Syria's basic role in the peace process. She stressed her support for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

Bilateral relations were also discussed. The two sides expressed their joint desire to develop and expand these relations in the various scientific, economic, and cultural domains.

The two sides reviewed relations between Syria and the European Union [EU] and Sweden's role in strengthening these relations, especially within the framework of the Barcelona conference between the EU states and the Mediterranean littoral states scheduled next November.

Al-Shar' issued an invitation to the Swedish foreign minister to visit Syria and she gratefully accepted the invitation. Mrs. Lena Hjelm-Wallen held a luncheon banquet in honor of Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation. The luncheon was attended by a large number of senior Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry officials and a number of businessmen.

Al-Shar' and Hjelm-Wallen held a joint news conference this afternoon in which they discussed the results of their talks earlier today, describing them as cordial, positive, and fruitful. Al-Shar' answered questions related to the peace process developments in the region.

Last night, the Syrian community in Sweden held a dinner banquet in honor of al-Shar' and his delegation. The Syrian community representatives stressed their deep links with their motherland, Syria, and expressed great pride in President Hafiz al-Asad and voiced their appreciation for his wise leadership and his honorable aim of realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

For his part, the minister thanked them for their noble sentiments and for supporting the cause of their homeland, stressing Syria's firm principles of ending the occupation in order to realize just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar' on Peace Prospects

LD2208172095 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1445 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Peace talks between Israel and Syria have reached a stalemate now. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is currently visiting Sweden, sees few possibilities for a quick solution.

[Correspondent] Sweden has peaceful relations with Syria, Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said when she introduced her guest, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at a news conference in Stockholm today. In the talks between the two foreign ministers before the news conference, al-Shar' did most of the talking, with the focus on the difficulties with Israel on agreeing about the Golan region. It is possible that there could be peace but he personally has great doubts about it, Faruq al-Shar' said at his meeting with the media representatives.

[Begin al-Shar' recording, in English] It is possible, if there is a goodwill, if there is a real intention by Israel to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. So far, I myself have a doubt. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Israel's real intentions are to expand its borders. I am of the opinion that Israel does not have goodwill, that is why the peace process is being prolonged, the Syrian foreign minister said.

Al-Shar' was asked whether Syria has condemned yesterday's attack in Jerusalem when at least six people were killed and about 100 wounded. The answer was: The Israelis are themselves responsible. It is not easy to find in Syria a conciliatory tone toward the victims of terrorism in Israel. Nothing but full peace can give Israel total security; that is also written today in the Syrian regime's mouthpiece AL-THAWRAH. The attack shows that partial attempts must be condemned, the paper in Damascus writes.

'Positive Developments' in European Ties Highlighted

JN2208111295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN editorializes on the importance of Arab-European ties, saying: These ties are currently witnessing many positive developments that have given rise to hope that a new pattern of ties between the two blocs is being created. This pattern of ties cherishes the principle of balanced interests, upholds the principle of mutual respect, and underlines the need for blanket cooperation to resolve the problems of the Mediterranean basin.

TISHRIN adds: The potential for fruitful cooperation between the two sides is there. If properly used, this potential can help create the appropriate circumstances conducive to a special Arab-European partnership. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has underlined Syria's desire to turn the Mediterranean, which is shared by both Arabs and Europeans, into a lake of peace and cooperation. At present, Damascus is eager to forge the best of ties with EU members. Europe's acknowledgement of the need for a just and comprehensive settlement and for the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and Europe's reiteration that Syria is a key to peace and stability in the entire region are all positive developments that have created additional opportunities for the promotion of Arab-European and Syrian-European ties.

TISHRIN cautions against Israel's machinations and the efforts it makes from time to time to scuttle Arab-European understanding, saying that alertness will safeguard the bridges of understanding between the two blocs and promote Arab-European ties of understanding and cooperation as well as Arab-European partnership.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Lebanon

JN2208204195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A cooperation agreement was this evening signed at the premises of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade between the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and the Lebanese Ministry of Economy and Trade. The agreement was signed for Syria by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister, and Yasin Jabir, Lebanese Minister of Economy and Trade. The signing ceremony was attended by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, and members of both sides.

With regard to the contents of this agreement and the prospects for future cooperation between the two ministries, Lebanese Minister of Economy and Trade Yasin Jabir said:

[Begin Jabir recording] The agreement signed today is a step in the direction of promoting economic cooperation between the two sides. The basic positive element in the agreement is that it has laid the foundations for stronger future ties. A provision enshrined in this agreement called for holding exhibitions in which there will be direct sales to customers in both countries. This is the first time such a thing happens. There will be a Lebanese exhibition for direct sales in Damascus. A budget has been earmarked for this exhibition. This is a positive element that ushers in stronger future ties. Other technical provisions are included in the agreement signed today. Technicians from both countries will continue their meetings to make greater progress toward the enhancement of bilateral cooperation. [end recording]

On the role the General Secretariat of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council played in bringing about the signing of this agreement between the two ministries, Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the council, said:

[Begin Khuri recording] The General Secretariat has recently followed up the meetings held by the technical economic subcommittees to prepare for this meeting, which was held today. As part of the work of these subcommittees, several steps were agreed on. These steps were discussed at this meeting, included in the agreement, and endorsed. Some of these steps concern the certificate of origin. It was agreed that there will be a consolidated certificate of origin to be issued for Lebanese and Syrian national products. Moreover, agreement was also reached on the mechanism that will govern the issuance and endorsement of such certificates to ensure that the goods and products meet the set specifications. Additionally, both sides agreed to define the concept of liability vis-a-vis national products. The agreement on economic and social cooperation provides for standardizing the concept of liability as part of an effort to ensure the smooth flow of national products between both countries without any restrictions. The establishment of joint exhibitions was also encouraged. There is hope that the draft agreement on guaranteeing investment and capital in both Lebanon and Syria will be finalized so that it may be endorsed during the meetings of the Follow-Up and Coordination Committee due to be held soon, God willing. [end recording]

Editorial Views Egyptian POW 'Massacres'

JN2208210995 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The POW's Massacre Reveals More of Israel's Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is not the first time Israeli crimes are revealed, whether they were committed in the occupied Arab territories or elsewhere, and whether the victims are prisoners of war or defenseless civilians.

The brutal massacres of Egyptian POW's by Israeli officers during the [1956] tripartite aggression and the June 1967 aggression are yet another crime to be added to a bloody record which started even before the Dayr Yasin massacre and continues up to this moment in the form of the daily killing of the inhabitants of the villages of southern Lebanon through an open aggression not sparing children, women, or the elderly.

The appalling details published so far about the massacres proved that the Israelis ordered the prisoners to dig their own graves and then opened fire on them in cold blood. This requires the international organizations affiliated with the United Nations and other humanitarian institutions to move expeditiously to investigate this crime and to deem it one of the most terrible war crimes.

However, what is astonishing is that the Israeli laws do not permit prosecuting the killers and do not consider them war criminals, in contravention with all international and domestic laws.

It is even more astonishing that Rabin himself banned any legal procedures against the criminals, alleging that the incident had become obsolete. Meanwhile, he himself and others, are still chasing what he deems Nazi war criminals on the pretext of killing Jews over 50 years ago. Moreover, Zionism muzzles whoever speaks out about the reality that the killing of Jews then was nothing but a premeditated crime organized and supported by world Zionism itself.

Once again, we reiterate that the Arabs find nothing new in Israel's crimes. If the massacre of Egyptian prisoners reveals more about the Zionists' reality, which is based on killing and bloodshed, the international community is then required to end its silence and speak out against those heinous crimes. It should be recalled that while Israel becomes furious whenever one of its soldiers or citizens is killed in a legitimate resistance operation, it stirs an uproar and pressures the international community to ignore its mass crimes. The question is: Do the United Nations and its institutions need more than what has been announced about the massacre of Egyptian POW's?

India

Editorial Approves Border Agreement With PRC

BK2308064395 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 22 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Step towards tranquility"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The agreement between India and China to disengage their respective military posts near the border in the eastern sector represents the first concrete move towards "peace and tranquillity" since an accord aimed at that happy state of affairs was agreed in 1993. The agreement to withdraw troops from the Wangdung area near the Sumdorong Chu Valley in Arunachal Pradesh is important in itself because the face-to-face positioning of Indian and Chinese troops, a mere 50 yards from each other, has been a source of tension and nearly provoked a clash in 1986-87. But it is still more important in terms of the removal of an immediate irritant which got in the way of more substantive border talks. The two sides have now "advanced beyond agreeing on principles" and proposed additional measures include reciprocal visits to military establishments; joint expeditions by personnel; regulation and prevention of dangerous activities such as firing and hunting along the line of actual control; and raising the level of contact from existing flag meetings at designated points along the line.

The normalisation of relations with China has been among the most outstanding Indian foreign policy successes of the last several years; and this latest round of talks has done much to aid that process. Problems remain, of course, such as India's concern at China's sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan, to which the Chinese response was evasive and standard. But, that apart, China is engaged in an exercise to assure its Asian neighbours of its credentials as a responsible Asian power at a time when the West is painting a picture of extreme Chinese bellicosity. A prime example of this was China's recent accommodation of the wishes of the seven- member Association of South East Asian Nations. The Spratly Islands in the South China Sea are claimed by China as well as most Asian countries. Up until the last Asian meeting in Brunei at the end of July, China was insisting on discussing the matter bilaterally with all the claimants, but it changed this position in the last meeting as a signal of its spirit of accommodation.

The Chinese vice-foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan similarly assured Indian officials and journalists privately that India need have no apprehensions about its continued nuclear testing; that China is itself facing a nuclear threat and must therefore be in a state of nuclear preparedness. While the agreement on disengaging border roops at points in the eastern sector is a result of the bilateral process set in motion quite a while ago, it also fits in well with China's eagerness to project itself as a responsible power.

India's 'Bankruptcy of Policy' in Kashmir Viewed

MS2308104295 London THE TIMES in English 23 Aug 95 p 10

[Report on interview with Lal Krishna Advani, President of Bharatiya Janata Party, by Tunku Vbaradarajan in London on 22 Aug: "Hindu Leader Calls On Delhi To crush rebel Militants"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kashmir crisis "should be tackled without kid gloves", said the leader of India's Hindu nationalist opposition, regarded by many as a likely Prime Minister should his party win the general elections next year.

Lal Krishna Advani, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told The Times yesterday that there could be no dialogue with Kashmiri "terrorists, militants and vandals" and accused Delhi of showing "a total bankruptcy of policy" in the northern state. A BJP government would "scrap Kashmir's special constitutional status" and "recover the third of the state's territory under illegal Pakistani occupation", he said.

Mr Advani, on a private visit to London for the opening of the Hindu temple in Neasden, also criticised Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, for suggesting that Delhi should free Kashmiri militants to secure the release of the hostages.

The recent ascent to power of the BJP in the industrial state of Maharashtra has alarmed liberals and Indian Muslims. Mr Advani insisted that his party was "committed firmly" to India's secular constitution. He said, nonetheless, that his party, once in power in Delhi, intended to build a temple on the site of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya demolished by Hindu fanatics in 1992.

Officials Said in Contact With Kashmir 'Captors'

BK2208114595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 22 (AFP) — Indian officials said Tuesday [22 August] they were in touch with a Kashmiri Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists and had received assurances the hostages were still alive.

"We are in touch with them (the captors)," a state administration spokesman said in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, adding that the separatists assured Indian officials that the four tourists, who have been held for more than a month, were alive.

The spokesman dismissed rumours that the previously-unknown separatist group had killed their four hostages.

"We believe they are alive," he said, adding that the only contact with the abductors had been by telephone.

Sources said the Al-Faran separatist group agreed Tuesday to release photographs and audio cassettes carrying the voices of an American, two Britons and a German in a bid to assure negotiators that the four were alive. The Al-Faran, which has murdered a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans- Christian Ostro, threatened last week to kill the remaining four hostgaes if the Indian Army launched a commando operation to rescue the Westerners.

The gruesome death of Ostro triggered resentment across the Kashmir Valley, where a forum of 30 Muslim separatist organisations observed a day's general strike earlier this month to protest the Al-Faran's action.

The Al-Faran has demanded the release of 15 Muslim militants from jails in a swap for the hostages who were abducted between July 4 and 8 from the former Kashmiri resort of Pahalgam.

The government has rejected a swap, but sources said the authorities on Tuesday shifted two of Al-Faran's list of 15 separatists from a Delhi prison to the northern state of Punjab which adjoins Kashmir.

The sources identified the two as senior separatist leaders of the hardline Harkat-ul-Ansar group, which India believes is a parent to the shadowy Al-Faran.

Both the leaders are believed to be Afghan nationals, the sources said of the separatist group which has virtually no Kashmiri Muslims in its ranks.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, since 1989 when the guerrillas stepped up their separatist campaign against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the divided state. Islamabad, which administers the southern third of Kashmir, denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic support to the bloody campaign.

The two South Asian rivals have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Hostage Negotiators Said Expressing 'Optimism'

MS2208132295 London INDEPENDENT in English 22 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Tim McGirk: "Talks Give Hope For Britons Held In Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar — For the first time since four Western tourists were kidnapped by Kashmiri rebels in the Himalayas six weeks ago, Indian negotiators are expressing guarded optimism that the surviving hostages may soon be freed.

Powerful radios have been given to the al-Faran rebels through an emissary which reportedly allows the Indians and foreign diplomats to speak directly to the kidnappers — believed to be hiding in the mountain forests. It is hoped that this direct channel of communication will allow diplomats to verify that the two Britons — Keith Mangan, 33, from Tooting, and Paul Wells, 23, from Nottingham — along with a German and American are still alive. A Norwegian hostage was earlier killed by the rebels.

Officially, India insists it will not bend to al-Faran's demands that 15 Kashmiri rebel commanders be allowed to walk free from Indian prisons. But it seems possible that India might be willing to cut a deal. Police sources in Srinagar claim that two prisoners high on al-Faran's list have been moved out of the high-security Tihar jail in New Delhi closer to Kashmir.

The two commanders, Azhar Masood and Nasrullah Largyal are thought to be mujahedin — Islamic warriors — from Pakistan and Afghanistan who considered the Muslim uprising in Indian Kashmir to be a Holy War. Both men are founders of Harakat-ul-Ansar, an extremist Kashmir group which last year captured two Britons but later released them unharmed.

The authorities claim that Harakat-ul-Ansar have ties with military intelligence in Pakistan, India's enemy neighbour which also covers Kashmir. A third rebel commander as yet unidentified may also be traded for the captive tourists.

Indian officials caution that no release of the four tourists is expected soon. Most likely they said, negotiations could drag on for several days or even weeks, as al-Faran and the government work out details of a safe passage so that the al-Faran rebels and the freed commanders can escape to safety across the mountain border to Pakistan.

The glimmer of a first breakthrough in talks between the Indian and the 17 al-Faran gunmen came after an emissary from the rebels on Sunday [20 August] reportedly held face-to-face talks with an Indian negotiator. Several hours later, the Kashmir state governor, General Krishna Rao, publicly said that India preferred a diplomatic solution to save the hostages. "The government has no plan to launch a military operation to secure the release of the four abducted tourists," he said in a statement.

The Foreign Office declined to comment. But Anti-terrorist experts from Scotland, and possibly the SAS, along with the FBI and German police are now in Kashmir, advising Indian security forces on the hostage crisis.

Julie Mangan, wife of hostage Keith, and Catherine Moseley, girlfriend of the other British captive, Mr Wells, are anxiously waiting news of further progress in the negotiations while they are being cared for by British diplomats in New Delhi.

Exchange of 'Terrorists' for Hostages Ruled Out

BK2208162795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister has ruled out the release of any hard-core terrorists in exchange of kidnapped foreign tourists in Kashmir. Mr. S.B. Chavan said that acceding to such a demand will only encourage terrorism in the state.

Intervening in the five hour long debate on Jammu and Kashmir budget for 1995-96 in the Lok Sabha, he said the government will take all necessary steps including diplomatic measures and direct talks with the militants to secure the release of the tourists. Reiterating the government's stand on Article 370, Mr. Chavan said it will continue as long as the people of the state wanted. Commenting on the welcome given to Mast Gul in Pakistan, the man responsible for the burning of Charar-i-Sharif shrine, he wondered what more proof is needed to establish Islamabad's hand in terrorism in the valley.

Mr. Chavan criticized the reported statement of a Western diplomat that there is no hard proof of Pakistan's hand of violence in the valley. On elections in the state, he said this is the only solution to the problem. Mr. Chavan said the center can discuss a package on autonomy only with the elected representatives of the people.

Earlier participating in the debate, members appreciated the government's bold stand on the hostages issue. They also complimented the administration on the successful completion of the Amarnath yatra [pilgrimage]. However, they wanted that steps should be taken to ensure that the money given by the center for the developmental purposes are properly utilized. They also demanded that the administration should be made more responsive to the need of the people of the state. Later, the house passed the state budget and the relevant appropriation bill after a brief reply from the minister of state for finance, Mr. Chandrashekhar Murthy.

Al-Faran Abductors Offer 'Proof' Hostages Alive

BK2308072595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 23 (AFP) — Kashmiri Moslem separatists holding four Western tourists since last month have offered what they described as proof that their hostages were alive, officials said here Wednesday [23 August].

Sources said Al Faran on Tuesday released photographs and audio-cassettes of the four Westerners, but the pictures were dated August 18, two days before the separatist group had threatened to kill the four Western tourists.

But the abductors late Tuesday released a fresh set of photographs of the hostages dated August 22 after negotiators appealed for conclusive evidence to establish the four were alive, other sources here said.

It was not known what was recorded on the cassettes, which was given to an official negotiator in Kashmir summer capital of Srinagar, but sources said the hostages appeared healthy in the colour photographs.

The latest development came as talks continued on Wednesday between Kashmir officials and the Al Faran, which killed its fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, in the first week of August.

"Negotiations are on between the abductors and the government on their demands," a government source said in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Al-Faran, believed to be a frontline of the Harkatul Ansar group, has demanded the release of 15 jailed comrades in a swap with the hostages, but the Indian government rejected the demand again on Tuesday night.

"We are firm that we will not release any terrorist because that will only encourage terrorist activity," Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan told a parliamentary panel on Kashmir.

Chavan, in-charge of counter-insurgency operations in India, said his government was doing it best to ensure the safety of Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26.

"The government is doing its level best to see that no harm comes to the hostages. We are using both diplomatic channels and direct talks to see that they are released quickly," Chavan said in comments published on Wednesday.

But sources said the authorities on Tuesday shifted two of the jailed rebels on Al-Faran's list from a

New Delhi prison to the northern state of Punjab which adjoins Kashmir. They are reportedly Afghan and Harkat guerrillas.

The Al-Faran on Friday threatened to kill the hostages — if the Indian army launched a commando rescue operation.

Published reports say the United States, Britain and Germany have also advised India against a commando-style operation against the Al Faran.

Hostage-release experts from the United States and Britain as well as diplomats from the three Western countries have gone to Srinagar.

Ostro's gruesome murder — he was beheaded — triggered resentment across the Kashmir Valley, where a forum of 30 Moslem separatist groups and political parties observed a day's general strike earlier this month to protest against the kidnapping.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when the guerrillas stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the divided state. Islamabad, which administers the southern third of Kashmir, denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic support to the bloody campaign.

The two south Asian rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since their independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Rao Commissions New Army Communications Network

BK1808012295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has emphasized the need for further strengthening of capability in developing sophisticated equipment in the field of communication and technology to meet the country's needs both during peace and war. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao was dedicating to the nation the Army's Static Switch Communication Network, ASCON, in New Delhi today. He said our scientists and engineers are second to none in the world. What is needed is innovative approach and dedication. Mr. Rao said the commissioning of this communication network is a step forward in our continuous reliance on indigenously built equipment. He commended the Army's Corps of Signals in successfully developing the ASCON system which will bring about a technological revolution in communication techniques. The prime minister presented shields and mementos to engineers and officers for their dedicated services to complete the project in a record time.

Plan Evolved for Defense Systems 'Self-Reliance'

BK1708110695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has evolved a 10-year plan for self-reliance in defense systems. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, informed the Rajya Sabha today that the plan evolved in the background of post-Cold War geopolitical environment aims to increase the self-reliance index from the present level of 30 percent to 70 percent by the year 2005. In a written reply, he said the plan envisages a three-pronged thrust for sustaining existing defense systems, upgrading viable existing defense systems, and inducting more of indigenous defense systems in a progressive manner. He said a Self-reliance Implementation Council has been constituted by the government under the chairmanship of scientific adviser to the defense minister. In addition, the existing Defense Research and Development Council has been entrusted with additional role of pooling national expertise and infrastructural strength, the minister added.

Iran

'Spokesman' Denies Involvement in Jerusalem Bombing

LD2208165695 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi today dismissed as "opportunistic and unfounded" Yasir 'Arafat's allegation in Gaza on Iranian implication in yesterday's bomb blast in Beyt ol-Moqqadas [Jerusalem].

Mohammadi said such statements are part of the Zionist regime's hostile propaganda against Iran to cover up the failure of the so- called peace process.

He said 'Arafat had better admit his big blunders in opting for policies opposed by the Palestinian nation and respect the will of the oppressed people of Palestine.

U.S. 'Plots,' Detention of Hamas Leader Viewed

NC1808194895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Aug 95 p 8

[Political commentary: "With Abu-Marzuq!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the vulnerabilities of the Western interests in Muslim countries, particularly Arab countries, is due to the awareness of the public opinion in these countries, especially with regard to the organized crimes and plots of the Western countries, particularly the United States and the Zionist regime.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the energy and awareness which it generated in the Arab and Islamic world even before this major historical event actually occurred has placed the United States and the Zionist regime in an unfavorable position. The West has spent millions of dollars so far to combat the cultural, political, and psychological effects of the Islamic Revolution. Even if this persistent Western propaganda has had any impact on the views and thoughts of Western society—which is in itself rather insular—it has also had the opposite effect on the Islamic countries, as they see that this dissimulation and propaganda emanates from the powers of world arrogance.

So far, hundreds of thousands of words, sentences, and articles— especially on the topic of Islamic fundamentalism in Islamic countries—have been inscribed on reams of paper merely to assert that fundamentalism is evil and that the West and its agents are the wonderful saviors of the people of the region.

It is therefore not unusual that the experts that manipulate public opinion in the West, particularly in Zionist circles, should advise the U.S. officials to put pressure on the politicians and journalists in Arab countries to remain silent on the current efforts regarding Middle East peace. These experts believe that the presence of a so-called "nonconfrontational" atmosphere in the Arab countries is vital for the success and progress of this imposed peace.

These experts cite the relaxed tone prevailing in the Syrian press and media and its effect on the people who support this belief. It would be better if those who do advocate this approach were to look at the situation in Egypt, Jordan, or even Bahrain. In these countries—despite the affiliation of these regimes to the apparatus of the powers of world arrogance and Zionism, and the presence of foreign fleets in the region; the propaganda efforts to clean up the image of the Zionist regime; and the humiliating aspects of the Middle East peace—not only have they not had any success, but they have become bogged in the quagmire themselves, on a path of no return.

Those who tout this attitude do not seem to perceive that the relative independence of the political and cultural leadership and management in Syria has been an important factor in controlling the country's peace program for the Middle East; and this is the reason for its difference from other countries so far.

After this introduction, we will now refer to the recent report in the U.S. press regarding the U.S. Justice Department's favoring a long prison term or extradition to the Zionist regime for Musa Muhammad Abu-Marzuq—one of the political leaders of the Hamas movement, who was recently detained by U.S. immigration officials.

There is no doubt that such actions by the White House are no longer a novelty. If these misanthropic measures are implemented, they will certainly generate foreseeable but unpleasant reprisals for the current administration and the White House officials and their illegitimate partners, the Zionist regime.

Even though the impasse continues as far as progress in the Middle East is concerned—due to the prolonged nature of this imposed process—we can see the various groups of people, intelligentsia, writers, and Muslim personalities in the region and worldwide opposing this trend. The arrest of Muhammad Abu-Marzuq could generate another wave of opposition and intifadah against the interests of the United States and the despots of holy Jerusalem.

In fact, the blatant errors of the Democratic officials in the White House and their cooperation with the Zionists against Muslim and Arab interests in the Middle East has even motivated most of Washington's allies in the region to openly castigate their godfather. These errors have not only aroused religious and Islamic sentiments against the United States, they have also incited most of the optimistic nationalists and critics in the region to denounce the actions of the powers of world arrogance or at least to radically rethink their cautious optimism.

At present, the political path that Washington is treading alone has been to the detriment of its regional and international allies and on occasion it has culminated in conflicts with its own allies, thus exposing U.S. willfulness and its two-faced policy even further. This has isolated U.S. officials from their friends and allies.

The unjust and tyrannical aspects of the imposed peace in the Middle East—which has elicited the widespread resistance of the people in the occupied territories and all Arab countries—are obvious. This has heightened more than ever the U.S. and Zionist apprehension about the trend of the imposed peace and the fate of their agents in the region.

The free press and media of the Islamic and Arab world should demand the release of Abu-Marzuq. The longer his incarceration continues or if he is extradited to the despotic Jerusalem regime, the more the intifadah will proliferate, thereby making the U.S. more vulnerable throughout the region.

Today, the U.S. highhanded attitude in the Middle East, which acts consistently to the benefit of the Zionist regime, has manifested itself in the form of the permanent nuclear superiority of the Zionist regime over the Arab world. This has frightened all social circles—nationalist and religious—as well as the officials of those countries. They think that continued progress in the Middle East peace process is tantamount to the eternal predominance in the region of the Zionist regime, the nuclear arsenal of which has raised a hue and cry in all quarters.

Accordingly, the obligation of our foreign policy and the external services of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran becomes more sensitive and important in this regard; it is clear that constant, perpetual effort is required on this issue. The beacon of our path is the Divine promise that "the triumph of God and His Prophet has been ordained in the Holy Book, and God Almighty is omnipotent."

'Dailies' Say U.S. Involved in Iraqi Defections

LD2208124095 Tehran IRNA in English
1147 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 22 (IRNA) — Two English-language dailies Tuesday [22 August] editorialized on the recent defections of a number of close allies of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Jordan.

"The after-defection developments prove that the United States wants to be present in the Persian Gulf region for monetary reasons alone," IRAN NEWS said adding, "for that the United States needs a justification."

"Politico-military tension and crisis is the best excuse for America to be present in our region and sell weapons to the oil-rich Persian Gulf Arab countries," it underlined.

The Iraqi defector, General Husayn Kamil al-Majid, in a series of 'revelations' surprised many in this region by claiming that Saddam's regime was due to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia 'this week,' it wrote.

The article stressed that despite a clear denial by the Iraqi regime that it has no plan for military adventurism, the U.S. administration is not only fanning the flames of war, but is also giving repeated assurances to vulnerable kingdoms and sheikhdoms that it will defend them when Iraq attacks.

The United States has brought and continues to bring its forces in the region for 'war games in a real sense' which will of course be at the expense of the petro-dollar countries, it said adding, "an array of American weapons merchants is pouring into the Persian Gulf countries again where they recently did dlrs. 40 billion worth of business."

"There is every reason to believe that the Iraqi defection plot was engineered by the United States and certain regional countries who, intentionally or unintentionally, cooperated with Washington," it stated.

How does the United States explain the fact that within hours of the defectors' arrival in Amman a high-level U.S. delegation comprising of representatives of sensitive organizations such as the CIA, arrived at the Jordanian capital for debriefing the 'traitors,' as the Iraqi regime branded them, the paper asked.

It reiterated that the rulers of the region have a historical responsibility and have to answer to their people for generations to come about how they used their national and natural wealth.

IRAN NEWS concluded, "this is the time when we, all the regional countries including Iran and Iraq, should decide on a collective strategy to enable us to become the sole authority for maintaining peace and stability without any foreign interference."

TEHRAN TIMES, another English-language daily, stressed in its editorial that no doubt Saddam Husayn's son-in-law left Baghdad in coordination with Washington.

But, it asked, how is it that Washington is trying to capitalize on the defection, spreading the rumour that al-Majid would cause a major change in Iraq in the near future?

If he were determined to launch a coup, he should have done it while in the army, and in Iraq, it noted.

"Washington has tried to capitalize on the issue from two fronts: On the domestic front, Clinton has tried to garner votes by telling the American people that the democratic party has lived up to its promise of overthrowing Saddam," the article underlined.

On the foreign policy front, it stated, the United States is trying to convey a message to the oil sheikhs of the region that the White House is still committed to its objective of toppling the Iraqi ruler.

"In fact the United States stationed its military forces in the region, particularly in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with the aim of overthrowing Saddam," it wrote.

Now, Washington is interested in keeping the kettle boiling in order to harness advantages on the domestic as well as foreign fronts.

"Regional countries as well as the Iraqi opposition should have realized by now that the Kamil issue is not to the benefit of the Iraqi people and the Persian Gulf countries," the TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

Iraqi Defections Said To Prove Saddam 'Atrophied'

NC2308062195 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 Aug 95 p 14

[Commentary by Gholam 'Ali Raja'i: "Saddam's Judases or Saddam the Judas!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two traitors—who also have the dishonor of being the sons-in-law of the executioner of Iraq and who found their disgraceful and disreputable existence becoming more frustrated and beleaguered under the tyrannical domination of Saddam—fled to Jordan along with the two unfortunate daughters of the Iraqi ruler, not as spouses, but as evidence of the innumerable cruelties of their brutal father. Regardless, one of the defectors is also a repository of valuable information, as he was serving in the Defense Ministry and headed the Department of Military Research.

The value of this information was so great that a short time later U.S. delegates rushed to Jordan and held hasty conversations with them. After this humiliation—unprecedented in the Ba'th Party of Iraq—Saddam made some hasty allegations that his son-in-law was a Jew!

The world of Islam, indeed the whole world, is amazed at this interpretation of events! Probably Saddam sees himself as the messiah of the Iraqi nation and of the Arab world as well!! Truly amazing! Even such hallowed terminology has not been immune from desecration by prurient contaminated elements such as the decrepit lord of the Qadisiyah [Saddam], who, after eight years, failed to retain even an inch of the pearl-yielding soil of Iran despite sustaining heavy losses! [previous sentence as published]

Saddam has termed his son-in-law a Judas. Who does not know that it was Saddam himself who hastened to serve world Zionism and to destroy the nascent Islamic system by dispatching his forces to the north and west of Iran! Ultimately, when he had dragged the oppressed and defenseless Iraqi people to the brink of annihilation and poverty, in sheer disgrace and without gaining anything, he wrote to the Islamic Republic of Iran's leaders that he accepted everything they said.

The same Saddam nurtured dreams of seizing Khuzestan within a week and berated the correspondents interviewing him on the first day of his victories, saying how dare they waste the time of a commander in the middle of his advance! Arrogantly he got up and left with the remark that he would answer their remaining questions in Ahvaz!!!

The flight by Saddam's daughters and sons-in-law proves that this abject 'Aflaqite—despite his ludicrous charades, which he constantly indulges in in Iraq—is quite atrophied on the inside! This is despite the despotism and domination of his secret police and intelligence departments, which continue to block every avenue for the dissemination of reports on popular uprisings by the noble Iraqi people.

The Jordanian regime has rejected the groveling request of the defeated lord of the Qadisiyah. Meanwhile the Jordanian regime can capitalize on the information gleaned from the defectors, who are the closest members of Saddam's family and his dynasty! This would mitigate, somewhat, its disgrace and shame—before the revolutionary Muslim Iranian people and the oppressed and tyrannized Iraqi people as well—over supporting Saddam's crimes during the protracted epic-making years of fire and blood [Iran-Iraq war].

The Jordanian regime should be vigilant and should retain these treacherous elements in sacred trust for the Iraqi people so that in not-too-distant future, by the grace of God, they can indict and sentence them as war criminals in the tribunals of the Iraqi nation's Islamic revolution.

But the noble Iraqi people should also snuff out this heretic regime and, with their selflessness and valor, should not permit the country of the immaculate imams (peace be upon them) to remain in the bloodstained talons of this bloodthirsty executioner any longer. They should learn a lesson from the past and present and beseech Almighty God for victory, as he is omnipotent. [preceding three words in Arabic]

Trilateral Meeting on Iraq Said Scheduled for Sep

LD1908113295 Tehran IRNA in English
1102 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 19 (IRNA) — Informed sources said on Saturday [19 August] Iran, Turkey and Syria are to hold their next trilateral meeting in the central Iranian city of Isfahan to review recent developments in Iraq.

Experts from the three countries are to meet in Isfahan on September 6 while the Iranian, Turkish and Syrian foreign ministers hold their meeting a day later on September 7.

The ministerial meeting was supposed to be held in Iran late April but it was postponed owing to some differences between Syria and Turkey.

Reviewing the latest developments in Iraq, the situation in northern Iraq and threats against Iraq's territorial integrity will be on the agenda of the ministerial meeting.

Neighbor States Asked Not To Aid 'Dissidents' .

LD2208190795 Tehran IRNA in English
1845 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Minister of the Interior 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here on Tuesday [22 August] that Iran did not allow dissidents of neighbouring countries to enter its territory and that it expected its neighbours to reciprocate.

He said the terrorist Iranian groups and anti-revolutionaries have not been the least successful in their activities against the Islamic state.

Besharati said that one of the reasons of the failure of the terrorist grouplets was the growing awareness among people in the Western border provinces and the presence on the scene of the forces of Islam.

'Opposition Group' Says Troops Massing Near Iraq

NC2308142895 Paris AFP in English
1404 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 23 (AFP) — Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen, accused Tehran Wednesday [23 August] of massing troops near the border with Iraq in preparation for an attack against the group.

The Iraqi-based Mujahedeen said in a statement issued from Baghdad that Iran had "amassed three divisions of their forces near the border with Iraq in Kermanshah provine with the objective of attacking the National Liberation Army," the group's armed wing.

It also warned the troops were looking to "intervene in Iraq should a suitable situation develop."

Iran last attacked a Mujahedeen base in early July, targeting the group's biggest camp at Ashraf 50 kilometres (31 miles) inside Iraq.

On July 10 three Mujahedeen members were shot dead in Baghdad in an attack the group blamed on "Iranian agents."

The Iranian Government daily IRAN blamed the Mujahedeen last week for two bomb explosions in oil installations in Ahvaz, the main city of the Khuzestan province which borders Iraq.

The Mujahedeen denied the charges saying Iran intended to use it as a pretext to attack their bases in Iraq.

No particular troop movements within Iran have been indicated, according to Iranian sources.

The People's Mujahedeen was set up in 1965 and is led by Mas'ud Rajavi who set up headquarters in Baghdad in 1986.

Minister Comments on Recent African Visit, Ties

LD2208143895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the eight-day trip taken by our country's Foreign Minister Velayati to South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, the ground was prepared for cooperation between the latter and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please listen to what Mr Velayati had to say to our correspondent, in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your trip to three countries in southern Africa raised a lot of sensitive issues. Could you please tell us about any developments in relations between Iran and these three countries and the circumstances that led to these developments?

[Velayati] Since one of our priorities is to expand relations with African countries, and taking into account South Africa's existing resources, I should say that the importance of relations between the two countries will, under these circumstances, increase. Iran's support for resistance groups such as the African National Congress in South Africa, the respect shown to Nelson Mandela, and various other factors all contributed to give a solid footing to our relations.

We opened our embassy in Pretoria and, in the past two to three weeks, South Africa opened its embassy here. Just as you pointed out, the trip provoked a lot of sensitivity in the Western, especially the U.S., media. In the past months the Americans have embarked on many knee-jerk reactions. It is rather amazing that a so-called super-power is pursuing the Islamic Republic in such a way that whenever an opening occurs, or is about to occur, in our foreign policy, they embark on a vain attempt to prevent it. But they have been unsuccessful in almost all these attempt, including their efforts to disrupt our relations with South Africa.

South Africa has a lot of potential for expanding relations with us and the grounds for large-scale cooperation of a varied nature between the two countries, is there. Even now, at the start of the development of our relations, a comprehensive memorandum of understanding has been signed between the foreign ministers of the two countries. Five supplementary committees have been formed to study cooperation in different fields and a joint commission is to convene in Tehran soon.

The political stance adopted by South Africa's Government was very interesting. They also need us, they need our oil especially and our experiences in reconstruction. They also look on Iran as a link and means for expanding their relations with the newly- independent countries of the former Soviet Union, just as we can benefit from South Africa as a bridge for developing our relations with the whole of Africa and especially with southern Africa.

The resistance shown by the South African Government against the various pressures brought to bear on it by the United States because of its relations with Iran, was very valuable. It demonstrated the importance and strength of the Islamic Republic in today's world. We hope to use the opportunities before us to develop and build our country. [end recording]

Official Calls For Trial of 'Serb War Criminals'

LD2208210495 Tehran IRNA in English
2049 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Iran's Charge d'Affaires to the Netherlands Hamid Rafizadeh on Tuesday [22 August] requested the deputy judge of a court for bringing to trial war Serb war criminals, to do all his duties without respect to political pressures and also without condoning the criminals.

He said whatever the court would do would have the support of Iran.

The judicial official said in reply that the hindrances being created by the Serbs would not in the least adversely affect the functioning of the tribunal.

Central Bank Head Details Trade Balance Surplus

LD2208214995 Tehran IRNA in English
2125 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Iran's trade balance last year showed over dlrs. six billion surplus, because of difference between exports and imports.

Central Bank governor Mohsen Norbakhsh in an interview with IRNA here Tuesday [22 August] said total volume of oil derivatives and non-oil exports last year stood at about dlrs. 19.1 billion compared to that of the dlrs 12.7 billion imports.

He added that Iran's balance of payments last year showed a surplus of about dlrs. 3.3 billion, enabling the government to abide by its foreign obligations and leading to a rise in the country's foreign exchange deposits.

Elaborating more on the issue, Nurbakhsh said the Islamic Republic Central Bank managed to reschedule its short term overdue debts.

He added that in view of new foreign exchange regulations, the government could count on non-oil export revenues and spend them on meeting country's urgent needs.

Nurbakhsh said the country's economy indicated a positive growth, particularly in the agricultural and infrastructural sectors and the big industries.

He added that last year agricultural, industrial and mineral sectors showed an average growth of 4.4 percent.

The Iranian official said that wheat, cotton, poultry and egg output last year showed a growth of 1.3 percent, 33.5 percent, 9.5 percent and 14.7 percent respectively.

He said power, gas and water sectors showed a record rise of about 12.7 percent during the first five-year development plan (1989-1994).

He added that the country's power grid last year produced 79 billion kilowatts per hour, a 4 percent rise.

Nurbakhsh said 44 percent of units active in the heavy industries sectors showed a growth between two and 105 percent last year.

According to him steel output topped 4.7 million tons last year, showing a rise of about 20.5 percent.

The major portion of bank facilities were offered to construction and housing sectors, showing about 34.3 percent rise compared to the corresponding figure over the preceding year.

Non-governmental banking deposits showed 28.7 percent growth and topped rls. 53,000 billion last year while liquidity stood at 14.1 percent, the lowest over the past 20 years, he said.

Nurbakhsh concluded that export of oil and natural gas in the first quarter of this year had earned the country over dlrs. four billion.

Military Official on Preparation for U.S. 'Fight'

95LA0345A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 1 May 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] News Division—Our fight with the United States is definite, and the fate of everything will be determined with this fight and conflict. The Guard Corps, mobilization forces, and the commanders must prepare themselves for battle.

According to a report by our correspondent, Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, the general commander of the Guard Corps, made this statement yesterday morning at the Fifth National Seminar of commanders and officials of the stations, divisions, regiments, and affiliated centers of the ground forces of the Guard Corps in the Shahid Safavi Barracks.

The general commander of the Guard Corps emphasized the combat readiness and capability and the operations of the Guard Corps and the mobilization forces in carrying out the instructions and orders of the grand leader of the revolution and said: The Persian Gulf region has always been considered a vital region by the world powers, and with the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the security structure of the region totally changed.

Referring to the investments of the imperialists, particularly the United States, in defeating the Islamic revolution, he added: The U.S. military invasion on Tabas, the Nuzeh coup d'etat plan, and the expansive military aggression of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq on Islamic Iran have been U.S. designed conspiracies to overthrow the revolution and the newly founded Islamic regime in Iran.

In continuation, Mohsen Reza'i emphasized: The Americans have not yet given up their provocation and treachery, and we too have not said our final word to the Americans.

He added: One day, ultimately, we must begin our destiny making operations against the United States; hence, the forces and the commanders of the Guard Corps must have the necessary capability and readiness in terms of operational morale.

The commander of the Guard Corps warned the United States against any political and military provocation in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf and pointed out: All the provocations and evidence indicates the preparation for an overall war by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we, too, in obeying the orders of the grand leader of the Islamic revolution are prepared to respond to any threatening action.

Reza'i, Guard Corps major general commander, said in conclusion: The duty the imam placed on our shoulders has not yet ended, and we must be prepared to complete this duty, which is to combat the United States and speak the last word to the United States.

Fixed Prices for Meat, Dairy Products Announced

95LA0310B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—The guaranteed purchase prices for livestock products for 1374 [21 March 1995 - 20 March 1996] have been announced.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad has announced that in accordance with a measure approved by the Council of Ministers, the guaranteed price for a kg of domestic cheese in hygienic packaging will be 4,500 rials [R], R1,400 for live chicken, R4,900 for slaughtered sheep, and R3,300 for slaughtered veal.

Based on this report, the guaranteed purchase price for a kg of 3.4 percent fat milk at the factory was set at R460 for the first six months of the year [21 March - 22 September 1995] and R490 in the second six months [23 September 1995-20 March 1996].

RESALAT Reports on Lowered Price of Peykan Cars

95LA0310C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—The selling price for Peykans from the Iran Vehicle Company for delivery to buyers dropped by 2.5 million rials [R] as of this morning.

Engineer Manuchehr Gharavi, executive director of the Iran Vehicle Company, gave a short interview to RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent. In announcing this he added: The selling price for Peykans for delivery to buyers in the second three months of the current year [22 June - 22 September 1995] will drop from R31.5 million to R29 million.

He said: The difference in the selling prices of R2.5 million will be paid to all those who buy their vehicles during this period, whether they are taking delivery or awaiting delivery, who have deposited the R31.5 million as a purchase guarantee.

The executive director of the Iran Vehicle Company was asked if a further price decrease from this company will be possible in the months to come. He said: In view of the fact that the selling price of the Peykan has now been set based on its free market price, if the Peykan's free market price drops, its factory selling price will probably also fall.

He noted that the selling price of a Peykan with 0 km is already R34.5 million throughout the country. He said: A decision and an announcement will soon be made on selling price reductions for other Iran Vehicle Company products such as the Peugeot.

Eng. Gharavi was asked by our correspondent: Have the government's new decisions on foreign exchange affected production at this company? He answered: As the result of implementation of the policy to stabilize the foreign exchange rate, it is expected that the Iran Vehicle Company will see no decrease of any kind in its production program. In the first three months of this year, 1,600 passenger vehicles of various kinds were produced, including Peugeots and Peykans.

The executive director of the Iran Vehicle Company added: This represents a doubling of production compared to the same period the previous year, and we hope that this trend will continue until the end of the current year [20 March 1996].

He discussed the allocation of foreign exchange for this company at the approved price of R3,000 on the dollar. He said: In view of the sensitivity of the production of Peykan passenger vehicles, for this year the Ministry of Industries has provided the foreign exchange needed for production to the Iran Vehicle Company.

It is necessary to mention, in view of the increased production and demand for Peykan passenger vehicles from the Iran Vehicle Company and the daily drop in its free-market selling price, that there is a great possibility that this company will further lower the Peykan's selling price.

Export Prices of Machine-Woven Carpets Reported

95LA0341D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Division—The export prices of various machine-woven carpets were determined and announced by the Iranian Center for Export Development.

Based on a report by the NASHR-E QANUN publication, the export prices of various machine-woven carpets that were determined and approved on 14/04/1374 [5 July 1995] in the Permanent Committee on Pricing Export Goods are as follows:

Machine-woven carpets prepared with polypropylene yarn, hemp, and polyester-cotton thread, using 280 combs—$5.5 per square meter; machine-woven carpets prepared from polypropylene thread, hemp, and polyester-cotton, using 350 combs—$8 per square meter; and machine-woven carpets prepared from propylene thread, hemp, and polyester-cotton using 500 combs—$12.50 per square meter.

Pakistan

Bhutto Cited on Handling 'India's Weaponization'

MS2308102295 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 23 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Mark Nicholson and Farhan Bokhari: "Bhutto Warns West Over Indian Weapons"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's prime minister, yesterday said the West and India's neighbours should "tackle the question of India's weaponisation" which she said was provoking a regional arms race and posed a potential nuclear threat "from Yemen to the straits of Malacca".

The Pakistan prime minister also suggested that the al-Faran group of Kashmiri militants holding four westerners hostage and responsible for the death of a fifth, may be a "counter-intelligence outfit of the Indians" working to harm both the Kashmiri struggle and Pakistan. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The Indian government maintains that al-Faran, a group unknown before last month's hostage takings, is a front for Harkat ul-Ansar, which New Delhi says is armed and sponsored by Pakistan. However, Kashmiri groups in Pakistan say they have no previous knowledge of the group, and also allege it to be Indian-sponsored.

Ms Bhutto's government is keen to remove suspicions, particularly in the US, over Pakistan's alleged links to terrorism while also justifying its own nuclear programme and search for new, advanced weaponry. Islamabad is seeking partial relief of a US Congressional ban on economic and military assistance imposed in 1990 out of concern over Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Pakistan is also finding it hard to buy advanced weapons, especially front-line fighter aircraft from non-US suppliers, for want of foreign credits. Washington, as part of its curb on military aid, has withheld delivery of 28 F-16 fighters for which Pakistan has already paid $658m.

Alluding to India's development of nuclear capability and the country's Prithvi missile programme, Mrs Bhutto said "India's blue water navy and fissile missile programme is no longer Pakistan specific".

She said: "Does the world want to start a race where countries like Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will all fall under the shadow of Indian nuclear warheads?"

Her remarks add to a barrage of accusations between Indian and Pakistani leaders. She said she wished to improve relations — which she described as "bleak" —

but said India had "rebuffed" two high-level attempts to resume meaningful talks, in 1993 and this year at the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation summit in New Delhi.

She said Pakistan would enter talks with New Delhi if India agreed to an agenda including discussion of Kashmir. The Indian government says it would hold only "unconditional talks".

Ms Bhutto also condemned the kidnapping and killing of Mr Hans Christian Ostro, a Norwegian tourist slain by al-Faran.

She said that "no-one in Pakistan knows who this al-Faran group is", but that the group was "serving the interests of India: it is harming the Kashmiri struggle, it is harming Pakistan".

She said her government was "suspicious" of al-Faran's apparent logistical support, including its communications systems. "Al-Faran may be a counter-intelligence outfit of the Indians to really harm the Kashmiri struggle and to harm Pakistan; and to divert western attention from the main issues in Kashmir."

Prime Minister Bhutto Leaves for Kazakhstan

BK2308070095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad this morning for Almaty on a three-day official visit to Kazakhstan. The members of her entourage included the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and the special assistant to the prime minister for economic sector, Mr. Shahid Hassan Khan.

The prime minister will also pay a two-day official visit to Kyrgyzstan from Saturday [19 August]. Ms. Benazir Bhutto will hold talks with the leaders of the two countries on bilateral relations, regional and international issues. She will also brief them about the current situation in occupied Kashmir. A number of agreements are also likely to be signed with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan during the visit to promote bilateral relations in various fields.

Iranian Minister Meets With Officials in Islamabad

Discusses Afghanistan With Minister

LD2208183195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in Asian-Pacific affairs, today met Pakistan's foreign minister in Islamabad.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the region and the situation in Afghanistan. Expressing concerns over the continuation of clashes in Afghanistan, Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali said that Pakistan's policy was to establish peace and security and end the clashes in Afghanistan. Pakistan's foreign minister also added that Islamabad attaches special importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and believes that the ties should expand in all spheres.

Cites 'Special Importance' to Ties

LD2308092095 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug 23, IRNA — Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari here Tuesday [22 August] stressed that his country views the Islamic Republic of Iran as its close friend in the region.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

Referring to the two countries' potentials, Leghari said Iran and Pakistan should further upgrade bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Appreciating Iran's relief supplies to Pakistan during its difficult times, the president stated that his country would never forget Iran's assistance.

A gas pipeline plan and establishment of Karachi refinery, as two joint economic projects, will further develop bilateral relations, he said, adding that Pakistan is seriously determined to implement the two projects.

Commenting on situation in Afghanistan, the Pakistani president reiterated that all Afghan belligerent parties should closely cooperate to settle the crisis in their country.

He hoped that Pakistan will witness a stable and peaceful Afghanistan as its neighbor in the near future.

Meanwhile, Borujerdi said that Iran attaches special importance to relations with the Islamic Pakistan, adding that Tehran would follow expansion of overall cooperation with Islamabad.

Outlining Iran's viewpoints regarding developments in Afghanistan, the Iranian official stressed that both Iran and Pakistan should do their best to establish peace and stability in that country.

Altaf Group Said Responsible for Delay in Talks

BK1808142395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, has said the government is not responsible for any delay in the talks with the [Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM]-Altaf Group to bring normalcy in Karachi. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said we believe that the talks should continue on the basis of quid pro quo. He said the Altaf Group wasted time in July and August, for which we are not responsible. He said the government side has always pleaded that the talks should be unconditional. The main purpose, he said, is to bring normalcy in Karachi to end the sufferings of the common man.

Referring to the joint statement of the Altaf Group team, the law minister said that instead of replying to our letter, the negotiating team of the Altaf Group has indulged in accusations, which is not going to help anyone. He also pointed out that the negotiating team of the Altaf Group delayed the talks on the issue of nomenclature, and now they themselves have withdrawn this condition. It is now quite obvious as to who is delaying the talks, he added. Mr. N.D. Khan was hopeful that the talks would be resumed after 20 August in consultation with the Altaf Group.

'Report' Details MQM Reply to 'Allegations'

BK1808121195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Aug 95 p 12

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) has rejected the allegations levelled against it and said if the government wanted to resume talks aimed at restoring peace in Karachi, it can contact MQM's negotiating team.

In its reply to the letter written by Prof ND Khan, Federal Law Minister and head of government team, the MQM negotiating members said Thursday [17 August] if government insist on "calling MQM as Altaf Group", it can do so, but at the same time it must immediately announce resumption of talks and with sincerity discuss the 18-points charter of demands of the MQM.

There has been deadlock in negotiations between the government and MQM since the last round held in Karachi on July 24, while the MQM side asked not to call them as Altaf Group, the government sought clarifications on six points from the MQM Altaf Hussain with India Today magazine.

The MQM negotiating team released its reply to the press today (Thursday) in which it described Prof. N.D. Khan's letter as "unsatisfactory and provocative and rejected the allegations levelled against the MQM by the government". [punctuation as published]

It said the MQM had on the insistence of the government explained the reasons which created deadlock in talks and "we hoped that the government would take immediate steps to resolve the deadlock and resume dialogue."

The government letter contains provocative and unethical language and if we also respond in the same language it might further worsen the situation and there may be no hope of continuing with the talks "members of the MQM team maintained. [quotation marks as published]

Government, MQM Talks Expected To Resume in Aug

BK1908094795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi-Government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] parleys may be held on any day next week falling between August 20 to 30 but these would not be held on Sunday (August 20) as reported in a section of Press.

It was confided to THE NATION by a government source from Islamabad. The source categorically said that the talks cannot be held on Sunday. August 20 as reported in a section of Press. The talks are not possible as the Senate session is due on that day.

From Karachi, it was learnt that Zuhair Akram Nadeem, MNA [Member of National Assembly] and a member of the government side negotiating team, had contacted Ajmal Dehlvi on telephone. It is likely Dehlvi and Zuhair will meet late Friday might and discuss the date for talks and other related matter.

The MQM team might seek some time and ask the government to allow one of the team members to visit London for consultation with Chief of the party. Altaf Hussain.

In the meantime, N.D. Khan has already taken briefing from the relevant authorities. He had been in contact with Ministry of Interior and probably had also met and received instructions from Premier Benazir Bhutto. The MQM sources said, "Now the ball is in the court of government. We have relaxed the condition of not calling us Altaf Group. The government can call us Altaf Group or MQM as it desires. Our offer of talks is unconditional. We want immediate solution to Karachi crisis. Now the government should sit on negotiating table and N.D. Khan should fulfil his promises. We are prepared to face all the complexities and reply as sought by the government. It is a policy of give and take".

On the other hand, the political observers are giving lot of importance to the August 14 statement of Prime Minister Benazir in which, she said, "We are political people and believe in resolving problems through dialogues. We shall talk on "give and take basis". "Now the atmosphere for talks is conducive," said a politician while talking to the nation.

Those who are watching the situation closely are of the view that deadlock has ended and this time some tangible result would come out.

Our Staff Reporter is Islamabad adds: The government-MQM talks is an exercise which has failed to click, can resume within a week's time, foresees Law and Justice Minister ND Khan.

Addressing a Press conference at his residence on Friday afternoon, the Federal Minister said the dialogue is expected to resume in Islamabad on August 25 or 26 of this month.

Both sides ae continuing with statements for public consumption but the ground situation in Karachi is not benefiting from these propaganda gimmicks. The government wants to maintain the impression that it wants a negotiated settlement.

The MQM (Altaf) is finding it hard to swallow because its militant strength is weakening by the day, thanks to the tough administrative measures. There does appear a softening on part of the MQM in order to try and get breathing space again through talks.

The negotiations have so far proven totally ineffective. The MQM, which could have assured full in violence, did not help. Either the negotiating team was helpless or they didn't want to own the killings by militants. It is now clear that unless they come forward with such an assurance, there is hardly going to be any progress.

Talks may or may not resume but the government would continue with its anti-terrorist drive, say the official sources because they known they can hurt the militants real hard at this juncture when they are disorganised and on the run.

ND Khan said that the Senate and the National Assembly would have morning and evening sessions, therefore, the talks most probably could start on weekends.

Professor ND Khan heads the government's negotiating team. He informed newsmen that his team would be meeting in the Federal Capital on August 20 to finalise the date for resumption of talks. Afaq Shahid and Zohair Akram Nadeem, who are currently in Karachi, will be returning shortly.

"We are ready to once again engage in the process of talks sincerely and with open heart," the Law Minister said adding that it would save time if the MQM came to the table with clearificatons demanded by the government on some vital issues.

But he clarified that clarifications would not be a condition for resumption of talks. "We can take up those anytime during the negotiations."

The Minister said it was the MQM which was responsible for wastage of time by suspending talks. "Many of the points on the agenda could have been sorted out if had continued to meet."

He welcomed the MQM demand of the government to give a date for talks but regretted that it was done after wasting almost a month's period.

ND Khan was shocked at a joint statement from the MQM in which Ajmal Dehlvi had termed a letter written to his party by him (ND Khan) as "unfounded and rubbish." The Law Minister said that the joint statement had nothing but propaganda value. "Ajmal Dehlvi should have written a direct letter to me," he said.

He reiterated his desire for a formula of give and take. "Both the sides have mandate and they can play a role in putting an end to terrorism. In this connection the MQM should disown terrorists and criminals."

He once again rejected an impression that the government wanted to create rift or was trying to form another faction of the MQM. But he did hint that if it happened, it would be due to MQM's internal differences.

Next Round of Talks Set for 29 Aug

BK2308025195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal Law Minister N.D. Khan has said that the sixth round of talks between the government and the Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] will be held in Karachi on 29 August. Talking to APP in Islamabad last night, he said the decision about the venue of the talks was made in accordance with the wishes of the Altaf Group. The federal minister said that a meeting of the government negotiating team was held in Islamabad yesterday, in which matters relating to the upcoming talks were discussed and necessary decisions were made.

MQM Calls For 'Nonviolent' Strike in Karachi

BK2208161895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, Aug 22 (AFP) — Karachi's main opposition group, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), called a two-day strike Tuesday [22 August] to protest the killings and mass arrests of supporters, the party said.

Top MQM leader, Ajmal Dehlvi, urged a total shut down of the strife-torn city on Wednesday and Thursday, but said the strike should be "non-violent."

Dehlvi said the strike had been called because security forces had detained at least 10,000 people during recent search operations against militants.

Scores of party activists have also been "tortured to death" by the police, he added.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking immigrants from India, agreed last Saturday to resume peace talks with the government.

But the hardening of its stance also followed an assassination attempt on another party leader Sheikh Liaquat Hussain, who was on the MQM team, led by Dehlvi, that conducted talks with the government that broke down on August 3.

Gunmen sprayed bullets on Hussain's car as he drove from party headquarters in central Karachi to his home. Hussain, 63, escaped unhurt but a policeman was injured.

Hussain blamed the government for the attack, saying it was an attempt to sabotage the talks. But a senior police official said Hussain's police escort was the real target.

Dehlvi told AFP the strike call was made after consultations with the MQM's exiled chief Altaf Hussain.

Asked if peace chances might be harmed, Delhvi said: "If one party can arrest 5,000 people in a day, then another party has all the right to protest peacefully."

Security officials say around 500 militants have been arrested and more than 80 "terrorists" killed in the past two months.

The MQM's past protest calls have paralysed Pakistan's largest city and commercial capital. The strikes have also been accompanied by increased violence.

There have already been more than than 1,300 violent deaths in Karachi this year, many of them blamed on the MQM by the government.

The MQM in turn accuses the government of pursuing an alleged anti-Muhajir policy. It says the current violence is a result of the crackdown by security forces.

The party has appealed for businesses, industry, educational institutions and transport to halt for two days. But Dehlvi emphasised: "We have directed party members to keep an eye on the anti-social elements."

Two more victims of Karachi gunmen were reported Tuesday. Residents said there were also several gunbattles with police in different parts of the city.

Minister Asks People To Ignore Strike

BK2208163895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, Major General Retired Nasirullah Khan Babar, has made a fervent appeal to citizens of Karachi to disregard the strike call given by Altaf Group. He has assured the citizens that the government will provide necessary protection to the life and property of the people. The minister reiterated the firm commitment that the government will not let the terrorists play with the lives of law-abiding citizens and disturb their normal business activities.

Eight Killed, 13 Injured in Karachi Incidents

BK2208155095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight persons were killed and 13 injured in various shooting incidents in Karachi today. Four vehicles were also set on fire.

In Karachi, the police arrested 61 persons involved in various crimes. The Crime Investigation Agency police also arrested five persons involved in various criminal activities. Illegal weapons, narcotics, and stolen goods were recovered from the possession of the accused.

Article Views Movement for New Province in Sindh

95AS0470A Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 1 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Nazi Lak: "Separate Province"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After denying it for a long time, Altaf Hussain has finally admitted to what he wants deep down in his heart and that is a separate province. However, this is his own voice and desire. Later, following [Bangladeshi Independence Leader] Sheikh Mujib, he also announced a two-day demonstration to force acceptance of his six-point program. As for a separate province, all such demands have been discouraged until now. We did not allow the Pashtoon province to be called Pakhtoonistan as it would have encouraged separatism. The fact remains that it was Pakistan that became independent half a century ago; not individual provinces. Provinces are administrative units only and are part of Pakistan. Everyone living here—Punjabis, Sindhis, Pathans, Baluchs—are Pakistanis. The talk about a Muhajir province has started only recently. The demand for Saraiki province is fairly old. We can grant that establishment of a separate Saraiki province is a good idea from the point of progress and prosperity. Saraiki areas are underdeveloped because they are located away from the provincial capital.

If this practice of forming new provinces became popular and the Muhajir province is formed today, the movement to form a Saraiki province will catch momentum. There will be many new provinces within Punjab alone. Pothwar region has its own history, Sargodha has its own culture, and Mianwali's distinct culture does not agree with any other culture. Similarly, the remaining three provinces will have to be divided into several smaller provinces. The day will come when small clans will demand for separate provinces and change Pakistan into "Subistan" or land of provinces!

Now, if a separate state is formed for Muhajirs, will Altaf Hussain be satisfied or will he announce separation openly? He will have full control on that province and will have his own government and his own assembly. This assembly, then, will pass resolutions to separate the province and form a new army. If he is successful in forming a strong army in the present situation, why cannot he form a stronger military when he has his own province? What force will be able to keep him out of Jinnahpur then? Instead of sitting in London, he will order the massacre of all non-Muhajirs. He will continue the movement for a separate province. In other words, forming a Muhajir province will be analogous to bringing him closer to his goals. How sorry the Sindhis will be for offering him their hospitality and how much will Pakistan cry?

Altaf Hussain is following Sheikh Mujib's steps. He has formed his army of supporters on the line of Mukti Vahini. He is bent upon all kind of rebellion and is encouraging others to do so. He is offering all kinds of points and is getting his followers trained in India in guerrilla warfare. Even after knowing it all, we are holding talks with Altaf Hussain on the advice of Mian Nawaz Sharif. Similarly, demands to give him more lenient treatments are being made despite the knowledge of his bestiality, massacres, and goals. His demands are not acceptable in any circumstance. The governments of that time had for some reason were lenient to Sheikh Mujib, however, the present government is not in the mood to repeat that stupidity.

Only Bengalis lived in Bangladesh and they separated. Everything is going fine there. However, what will happen to non-Muhajirs, who outnumber Muhajirs, in Karachi? [as published] Where will their business, industries, and employment go? Most of all, if the only Pakistani port is lost, what will happen to Pakistan? Why will Altaf Hussain, who is playing into foreign hands, cooperate with the rest of Pakistan? We have been fighting for Kashmir for a half century because it is like an artery of Pakistan. The rivers that bring water to Pakistan originate in Kashmir. If we lose the ocean while trying to save the rivers, it would be like having our neck cut down. This should worry not only Sindhis but the whole Pakistan. Everyone, including the opposition and other parties, should put their heads together and think about it. They should forget various political interests and crush this movement. Otherwise, there will be neither the bamboo nor the flute [we will lose the whole nation].

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